

## Sudan rejects separate security for south

ABUJA (R) — Sudan's northern-dominated government has rejected a Nigerian proposal at peace talks in Abuja that separate security arrangements be applied in southern Sudan. Government delegate Economic Planning Minister Ali Al Haj Mohammad told reporters Khartoum would not accept the proposal made at the Nigerian-brokered talks to end a decade-old civil war with southern rebels. Nigeria proposed that during an interim period, the Sudanese armed forces and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) should remain separately administered. It suggested an interim government headed by an SPLA member be set up for southern Sudan with a range of powers that include maintaining peace and security in the region. Nhial Deng, spokesman for John Garang's mainstream SPLA, said his movement was generally satisfied with Nigeria's proposals. "We are not opposing most of the proposals. We find the proposals quite good," he told Reuters Friday. On Thursday, the government and SPLA agreed Islamic law should not operate in the south but they remained divided over whether Sharia should apply to southerners living in the capital of Khartoum. The SPLA wants Khartoum to operate a multi-legal system with laws of a secular central authority taking precedence.

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## Nadir says he fled to tell his story

KYRENIA, Cyprus (R) — Fugitive Turkish Cypriot tycoon Asil Nadir said Friday he had to leave Britain to be able to tell his side of the Poly Peck investigations and the legal procedures. "There was absolutely no possibility of getting a fair trial because of all the sculduggery," told reporters in Kyrenia in north Cyprus. The whole affair had been "shaken in secrecy either by threats of contempt of court or by hearings in camera and hearings in chambers," he added. Mr. Nadir, appearing before the press for the second time since his arrival in north Cyprus after skipping bail in Britain, refused to answer any questions after reading a written text. British police said Mr. Nadir had been involved in a secret investigation, unrelated to fraud and theft charges pending against him. Media reports said the investigation was related to an attempt by Mr. Nadir's associates to bribe the judge in the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), case against Mr. Nadir, who was to stand trial in September. In the event the judge was never contacted by the associates, the reports said, and there was no evidence to show Mr. Nadir was personally involved in the alleged plot. Mr. Nadir, who faced a record £3.5 million (\$5.5 million) bail and is now in north Cyprus. A British court issued an arrest warrant for him on Thursday.

AMMAN SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1993 THU EL QU'DEH 16, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Jordan part of Cambodian poll team

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has approved Jordan's participation in an international committee to supervise U.N.-sponsored elections in Cambodia during the last week of May. Ministry of Interior Secretary General Salameh Hammad said the ministry had set up a team headed by the director of the ministry's administrative affairs department, Abdul Qader Al Hababeh. He said the delegation, which will leave for Cambodia Sunday, includes 10 administrative governors and heads of departments.

## Preparations start for Catholic meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Middle East Michel Al Sabbah arrived in Amman Friday to prepare for holding the first Arab Catholic conference in Amman. Bishop Saleem Al Sayegh told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the conference, which will open in mid-May, will represent more than six million Catholics in the Arab World. The conference, he said, will discuss the conditions of the Palestinian people living in the occupied Arab territories, means of enhancing national unity and Islamic-Christian dialogue.

## Brotherhood stages rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood led a Middle East peace talks protest through the Wihdat Palestinian refugee camp Friday. About 300 leaders and supporters of the Brotherhood called for a halt to the Arab-Israeli talks at a demonstration after Friday prayers.

## Noel Foundation team ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The president and members of the Noel Foundation, an international developmental organisation, leave Amman today after a five-day visit at the invitation of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal. The delegation visited Queen Alia Fund (QAF) projects and social community development centres in Madaba, Ma'een, Mleib, Taibeh, Ajaba and Deish. The guests were introduced to the various projects the QAF has implemented in the past fifteen years to help the underprivileged sections of the Jordanian society improve their lives and help themselves. In particular, they visited the projects that generate income for rural women.

## DFLP claims attack

AMMAN (AFP) — A Palestinian group Friday claimed an armed attack on an Israeli police officer who it said was wounded at dawn Thursday near Rehovot south of Tel Aviv. In a communiqué received by AFP in Amman, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's (DFLP) "Red Star" paramilitary arm, said one of its commando units had opened fire at 0200 GMT on the officer's vehicle, hitting him in the chest and arm. The DFLP said the officer was rushed to hospital where he remained in serious condition. Israeli reports from occupied Jerusalem said an unidentified man pumped five bullets with a revolver into the officer who was at a stoplight, wounding him in the chest and arm.

## UAE withholding PLO contributions

DOHA (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is withholding some \$12 million in contributions destined for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) a Palestinian source in the Gulf said Friday. The funds represent three years worth of contributions collected from the salaries of Palestinians working in the UAE and amount to a total of 43 million dirhams (\$11.7 million), the source said. According to the source, Palestinians in the UAE set aside five per cent of their salaries as contributions for the PLO in 1990, 1991 and 1992. But the UAE only sent the PLO 10 million dirhams (\$3.6 million) in 1992, following the intervention of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the source added.

## PLO rejects Israel's self-rule proposal

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) rejected an Israeli draft agreement on Palestinian self-rule Friday, saying it offered little new and warning that Middle East peace talks were heading for impasse.

"We totally reject such a project which gives only some minimal power to the Palestinians to reduce the weight of occupation while legitimising it," PLO spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters.

"Such a project again puts the peace negotiations on the road to impasse," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

Israel gave Palestinian negotiators in Washington Thursday a draft of a joint declaration of principles as the framework of an interim self-government agreement for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The mood of PLO officials turned to pessimism after they examined the Israeli proposal.

"Finally, no one can expect a serious move from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who is the prisoner of the radical wing of his government," a senior PLO official who asked not to be named told Reuters.

The rejection followed signs of some progress in Washington in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Jordan and Lebanon, while talks between Israel and Syria were deadlocked (see page 5).

All sides had agreed to continue the latest round of talks into a third week.

Both the Israelis and Palestinians had said they hoped they might agree the declaration of

principles before the end of this round.

Israeli spokesman Yossi Gal had said Israel and the Palestinians had got down to dealing with "the essence of self government — structure, legislation, elections, land, water and other negotiations."

The Palestinian rejection followed eight rounds of fruitless argument and a four-month suspension caused by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians in December.

The Palestinians negotiators only resumed talks last month under intense pressure and badly need concrete progress to show their people the peace process is working and justify their return.

PLO sources said Faisal Al Husseini, overall coordinator of the Palestinian team, and several colleagues were on their way from Washington to PLO headquarters in Tunis for consultations.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the Israeli draft contained little new. It was "not different from the previous projects presented during the era of (former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir," he said.

"It gives some prerogatives such as health and education to the Palestinians, while maintaining military and security domination," he added.

The document "ignores (Arab East) Jerusalem and wants to consecrate the maintenance of (Jewish) settlements," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

He denied reports by the Israeli press that Israel offer included acceptance of internation-

al control of elections in which the Palestinians would choose their self-government authority.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman declined to comment, saying any response would come from Israel's peace team in Washington.

A Lebanese negotiator carried an Israeli proposal made at the peace talks in Washington back to Beirut for further consultations with the Lebanese government, officials said Friday.

They said Ambassador Khalil Mekawi, the deputy chief of the Lebanese delegation at the talks, arrived in Beirut late Thursday. He was to report to Foreign Minister Faris Boulez and other senior officials Friday.

Mr. Boulez said Thursday the Israeli proposal, made earlier this week, contained "positive signs that need some clarifications."

He said Mr. Mekawi would carry the Lebanese response back to Washington when the round resumes for a third and final week Monday.

Diplomats in Washington said Thursday that Israel had proposed the outline of a peace settlement with Lebanon which indicated that Israeli troops would withdraw from southern Lebanon if border security arrangements could be agreed.

Jerusalem tug-of-war

Israel's sealing of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for nearly six weeks has underscored the Israeli-Palestinian struggle

(Continued on page 2)

Israelis favour use of force to bar pullout, page 2

## Jordan tries to avert Jordanians' losses from invalidation of Iraqi currency

By P.V. Vivekanand  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Jordanian authorities are in contact with the Iraqi government in an effort to avert the potential losses of Jordanians from Wednesday's Iraqi move to invalidate part of its pre-1990 banknotes, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said Friday.

A Lebanese negotiator carried an Israeli proposal made at the peace talks in Washington back to Beirut for further consultations with the Lebanese government, officials said Friday.

"We are in touch with the Iraqi authorities over the issue, and hope to have a clear picture of the situation in the next two days," Dr. Nabulsi told the Jordan Times.

The CBJ governor said: "The contacts (with Iraq) are of a general nature without specific reference to any category."

He was answering a question whether Jordan was specifically seeking to ensure that Jordanian exporters who have taken Iraqi banknotes in payment for goods would be compensated for their losses.

It was usual for the Central Bank of Iraq, acting in concert with other concerned ministries and departments, to pay in hard Iraqi currency to pay for imports. In turn, the traders used to take out the money out of Iraq under a special permission and exchange it in the open market.

"It's not a secret that substantial quantities of Iraqi money in Jordan were not smuggled but were brought out with the consent of the Iraqi authorities," Abdullatif En-

sour, minister of industry and trade, was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ did not have any official assessment of the volume of the invalidated 25-dinar banknotes in Jordan. But he expressed his personal opinion that it could be in the range of 400 to 500 million Iraqi dinars.

Calculated at 30 Jordanian fils to the dinar, the value of the estimated volume would be around JD 15 million. But independent dealers and banking officials say Jordanians could have lost as much as \$100 million.

Fahed Fanek, a columnist for the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, wrote Friday that Jordanians held less than two per cent of the invalidated Iraqi currency.

The CBJ governor, who Wednesday asked the security authorities to enforce a total ban on the entry of any Iraqi currency to Jordan, said the Kingdom had not proposed any mechanism or formula to ensure that the invalidation of the so-called "Swiss" notes did not affect Jordanians.

The Iraqi government has set a Monday deadline for the exchange of all 25-dinar "Swiss" notes to the Al Rasheed and Al Rafidain bank branches within the country. Iraq has closed its borders until

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Halt of Iraqi oil supply not seen posing problem, page 3



A Jordanian trader displays his holding of Iraqi dinars rendered potentially worthless by the Iraqi government last week (photo by Yousef Al 'Alani)

## Kuwait blocking initiative to heal Arab rifts

By Rama Sabbagh  
*Reuter*

AMMAN — Jordan, trying to pare down its \$7.3 billion foreign debt, has asked the 12-nation European Community (EC) for debt relief to help it sustain economic growth.

But one diplomat said that EC states, grappling with their own economic and budgetary problems, were unlikely to accept such a request which could set precedents for other debtors.

About 23 per cent of Jordan's total \$7.3 billion foreign debt is owed to EC member countries and institutions.

Debt servicing for the European loans, the letter said, was expected to total about \$180 million a year between 1993 and 1995.

Debt repayment, it added, accounted for about 25 per cent of reoccurring public spending.

Jordan told the EC debt relief would help sustain growth backed by a seven-year International Monetary Fund-agreed reform plan.

"Jordan is at present playing a constructive role in the Middle East peace process. This policy is not supported by a large segment

of political parties in the country," the letter added.

Jordan has rescheduling part of its debts to the Paris Club of official Western creditors and is currently negotiating debt restructuring with its commercial creditors.

The letter renewed Jordan's request for debt reductions to help compensate it for losses caused by the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis. The Kingdom said U.N. trade sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990 were costing Jordan \$250 million a year, mainly in lost business with Baghdad.

Jordan boasted 11 per cent economic growth in 1992 and its stock market gains were among the highest in the world, mainly due to a mini-boom caused by International Monetary Fund (IMF) directed reforms and the return of over 300,000 Jordanians from Kuwait after the Gulf crisis.

But many officials and private economists express fears that the recovery in Jordan's debt-burdened economy may not be sustainable without further economic reform and assistance.

## Rabin faces major crisis in coalition

By Rama Sabbagh

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is presenting a leading dove in his cabinet with a bitter choice — step down to appease another coalition partner or be responsible for the collapse of Middle East peace talks.

Rabin's current coalition crisis, the most serious since Mr. Rabin took office 10 months ago, underscores how vulnerable the peace talks are to domestic political instability.

On Friday, Israeli newspapers outlined a scenario in which Mr. Rabin would put Education Minister Shulamit Aloni in the position of either quitting to satisfy a religious faction or causing the fall of the government — and an end to the peace talks.

"Rabin is not firing Aloni. He is leaving a loaded pistol on the table and leaving the room," political columnist Nahum Barnea wrote in the Yedioth Ahronoth daily.

The ultra-orthodox Shas party set off the crisis Thursday, saying it would quit the coalition Sunday unless Mrs. Aloni, leader of the

## Rabbani appeals to Rafsanjani

NICOSIA (R) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has appealed to Iran to mediate between Afghan factions whose quarrels have sparked rocket attacks on Kabul again, Iran's IRNA news agency said Friday.

It said a message from Mr. Rabbani for President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was delivered in Tehran Thursday, the day nine rockets crashed into the Afghan capital, killing two people and wounding 12 according to Kabul Radio.

Urging Mr. Rafsanjani to launch a mediation drive, Mr. Rabbani said the Afghan government "believes that Your Excellency's role and personality would be effective in removing misunderstandings" among Afghan factions, IRNA said.

The Afghan Ministry of Defense blamed the hardline Hezbollah-i-Islami of Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his Shiite Hezbollah-Wahdat allies for attacking government positions Thursday.

## Clinton confident of Europe in action to end Serbian aggression

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.

President Bill Clinton said Friday he was confident the United States could find "a common policy" with hesitant European allies on the next steps to end aggression in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Clinton planned weekend meetings with his security advisers and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was to return Friday night from a week of talks with Russian and European nations.

"I just have the feeling based on my conversations in the last week and the reports that I've been getting that we can reach a common policy," Mr. Clinton said.

"I think we have to turn up the heat and keep the pressure on," he added.

In Rome, meanwhile, Mr. Christopher said "some military action" could be justified under existing U.N. resolutions.

For "greater military action we

would much more likely require the explicit authorisation of the United Nations," he told reporters Friday after meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta.

He did not say what sort of action that would be.

Washington has stepped up its calls for action since the self-styled parliament of the Bosnian Serbs refused to endorse a peace plan negotiated by international mediators Cyrus Vance and David Owen.

Mr. Clinton, who spoke by telephone Thursday with French President Francois Mitterrand, said he also wanted to hear the views of Senator Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, and Richard Lugar, Republican from Indiana, and four other senators who returned to Washington on Thursday after a tour of the Balkans and Russia.

Lord Owen called on the United States to demonstrate its commitment to ending the war in

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 2)

## Pakistanis aim to keep Mogadishu calm

By Paul Alexander  
The Associated Press

**MOGADISHU** — It was great evening for a ride Thursday — cool breezes after a steamy day, another brilliant orange sunset and a full, yellow moon looming on the horizon.

The Pakistani soldiers, with new blue U.N. badges pinned to their khaki uniform sleeves, were not paying attention to the setting. They were looking for trouble and guns.

Much of Operation Restore Hope's hope for success in rebuilding Somalia lies in the Pakistanis' ability to keep Mogadishu's streets at least as safe as they became under the Marines who just left.

Somalis worry whether the Pakistanis are tough enough for the job. The Pakistanis know they will be tested, by chance or design. They say they're ready to hit back the first time to set an example.

So far, their transition period has been pretty smooth. The bulk of the 4,700 Pakistanis arrived in last April. The Marines shared patrols with them for a few days before the United States turned over control of Operation Restore Hope to the United Nations.

"We were nervous at first, but now we have enough confidence," said Lieutenant Arif Rehan.

The problem is winning the people's confidence and respect. Somalis view the Pakistanis as



Somali children play games with an abandoned machine gun on a street leading to Mogadishu (AP photo)

weak because they were unable to halt looters while protecting the port last year. A U.S.-led coalition was called in to safeguard food shipments to the starving.

The Pakistanis point out they had only 500 men at the time and were operating under much stricter rules of engagement that restricted them to shooting only if fired upon.

Until their U.N. vehicles arrive later this month, they are out there in the dark green, right-hand drive Toyota pickup trucks bought from a dealer in Karachi.

Four soldiers in the back carry SMG rifles, a takeoff on the AK-47. A fifth mans the 7.62-caliber, belt-fed machine gun mounted in the truck bed.

Two trucks, separated by about 50 metres, cruised slowly Thursday evening down a main road scattered with bone-jarring potholes and lined with piles of burning trash. Women and children carried loads of water or firewood home. Donkey-drawn carts carried heavier loads.

Suddenly, the lead truck accelerated. It pulled alongside a battered pickup truck, motored the driver over, sped up again and nosed across the road to prevent any chance of escape.

Universal sign language got the six passengers over for a quick frisk. A search of the vehicle turned up no guns. With an "OK, thank you very much," the patrol was on the move again.

It cruised through a market that even after dark was bustling with food stands and vendors

selling bundles of the mildly narcotic khat leaves that are widely chewed here. Gas-powered lanterns abounded. Generators powered a few fluorescent street lights.

Although a couple of kids made obscene gestures after begging for water or other handouts failed, most waved and yelled "Zindabad Pakistan" Urdu for "Long live Pakistan."

The 90-minute patrol was uneventful. The soldiers searched about a dozen vehicles overall and found no weapons. No children threw rocks. No gunshots rang out.

There are tradeoffs involved in having the Pakistanis replace the American forces who controlled Mogadishu and Merca until last week.

Most Somalis speak only Somali and maybe some English, Italian or Arabic. While Pakistani officers generally speak fairly good English and one accompanies each patrol, most enlisted men speak only Urdu and maybe a little Arabic.

"That is the biggest advantage we have," said Captain Sharif Tariq. "Language is not that much of a barrier. And our people are learning their language."

## PLO rejects Israel's proposal

(Continued from page 1)  
over the future of Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin, when closing off the occupied territories, also slapped a ring of army roadblocks around the Holy City cutting off Palestinians from their cultural, economic and spiritual centre.

Israel, making a symbolic gesture to East Jerusalem Arabs, agreed last month to sit down with Mr. Husseini, a prominent Palestinian leader from East Jerusalem, at the peace talks in Washington.

But seeking to assert its view of Jerusalem as Israel's "eternal capital," it closed off the city.

"I believe Israel wants to turn its annexation of the city into a fair accomplishment," said Ibrahim Al Dakkak, a leading Arab authority on Jerusalem.

Mr. Dakkak said he believed

Israel may offer to lift the blockade ultimately but only after wringing concessions from Palestinian negotiators, including a "recognition of Israel's sovereignty" over the city.

Israel has barred West Bank and Gaza Palestinians from Jerusalem and Israel before. But it appears intent on making this closure, prompted by Arab attacks, long-lasting.

Brigadier-General Gadi Zohar, head of the West Bank "civil administration," was asked at a briefing on Thursday if he had been ordered to plan for a semi-permanent or long-term ban. He said: "Yes, that's right."

"It's for a long period at least."

Israeli bulldozers were working

to prepare a detour road around East Jerusalem meant to link the northern part of the West

Bank with the south while bypassing the city.

Israel also tried to run a bus shuttle service from Ramallah to Bethlehem without stopping in Jerusalem and ordered Palestinians to obtain special permits for entering the city.

"We are easing the closure, but controlling the flow of movement of Palestinians into Israel," said Oded Ben-Ami, Mr. Rabin's defence ministry spokesman.

"We are not excluding Jerusalem from Israel... there is no question about the future of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel," he said.

Palestinians have resisted the Israeli closure of Jerusalem in what little ways they can.

Many Palestinian institutions based in Jerusalem and staffed by West Bank residents have chosen to cut down their services rather than apply for permits, fearing to do otherwise would be viewed as recognition of the closure.

## Rabin faces coalition crisis

(Continued from page 1)

should not have added a traditional Jewish prayer to a statement in Poland marking the 50th anniversary of the Jewish uprising against the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto.

But for the orthodox politicians of Shas, it was the last straw. The United Torah Judaism party has called a censure motion against the government for Monday in parliament over Mrs. Aloni.

As always in Israeli politics, political commentators saw a more cynical side to the crisis.

They noted the Meretz-Shas' confrontation may be linked to a police investigation into allegations Mr. Deni stole government funds that is drawing to a close after nearly three years.

It is possible, wrote Hanna Kim in the liberal Hadashot daily, that Mr. Deni hopes to set off a cabinet reshuffle in which Mr. Rabin would replace the staunch justice minister, David Libai, with someone more sympathetic to Mr. Deni's cause.

Political commentators on Friday said Mr. Rabin's plan was to let Mr. Deni submit his letter of resignation as interior minister to Sunday's cabinet session.

It takes 48 hours for the resignation to take effect, and during this time, there will be strong

pressure on the Meretz bloc — which has so far rallied behind Mrs. Aloni — to have her to step down voluntarily.

A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that Mr. Rabin was sitting back and not trying to pursue the crisis.

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## Sixth person charged in New York bombing

**NEW YORK** (AP) — A Palestinian who was held as a suspect in the World Trade Centre blast was charged Thursday with conspiracy to destroy the building.

Ahmad Ajaj, 27, was the sixth person charged in the case. The Feb. 26 blast in the heart of New York's financial district killed six people and injured a thousand.

Mr. Ajaj told the Associated Press recently that he illegally entered the country last year carrying bogus passports and do-it-yourself bomb-making books.

Mr. Ajaj, because of his illegal arrival, was in a federal jail in Manhattan when the explosion rocked the trade centre complex on Feb. 26, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

He was freed on March 1 but was taken back into custody eight days later.

The federal charges, distributed to the media by his attorney, detailed his arrival on Sept. 1, 1992, and the approximately 12 bomb manuals that federal authorities seized from him.

Mr. Ajaj's attorney, Lynne Stewart, faxed the charges to the Associated Press, and U.S. prosecutors were not immediately available for comment.

Ms. Stewart said in a news release that Mr. Ajaj was to be arraigned on Friday in federal court. She could not be reached for further comment.

The federal complaint came a day after Ms. Stewart held a news conference to complain that federal authorities had been holding Mr. Ajaj for two months without charges.

The twin towers of the trade centre, the world's second-tallest building, were shaken to their foundations by the February explosion. Some 230 kilogrammes of chemicals were set off in a van parked in a garage adjoining the building complex.

Authorities have said the chemicals, readily available through illegal means, were not used. The deadly combination at a storage locker in New Jersey. The charges against Mr. Ajaj said his bomb manuals contained chemicals and compounds like those found in the locker, including

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
18:39 ... Les Aventures de L'Espace  
18:38 ... Envoy Special  
19:00 ... News in French  
19:30 ... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ... News in Arabic  
22:30 ... Feature Film: "Paul Friendship"

**PRAYER TIMES**

Fajr (Surise) Dhuhr  
12:32 ... Dhuhr  
16:12 ... Asr  
19:25 ... Magrib  
20:52 ... Isha'

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifieh.

Tel: 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel:

652785

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel:

657440

De la Saie Church Tel: 661757

Terraneus Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel:

623541

Min./Max. temp.

Aman ... 10 / 28

Aqaba ... 17 / 35

Deserts ... 9 / 30

Jordan Valley ... 14 / 33

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# Home News



HER MAJESTY Queen Noor Thursday visits the Save the Children 8th Annual Spring Exhibition. On display were products from the Bani Hamida weaving project and the Jordan River Designs Project. The weaving project provides economic opportunities for 870 Bani Hamida women in 12 villages. This year's exhibition differs from previous ones in its unique kaleidoscopic display of rugs in eight different settings. The settings, all of which were designed by Jordanians, blended the

traditional with the modern and drew upon the cultural heritage of women in Jordan. Exhibited at the Jordan River Designs Project, in which 1,000 women have participated, were embroidered quilts, cushions, wall hangings, lamp shades and picture frames. Receiving the Queen at the exhibition were Director of Noor Al-Hussein Foundation Iman Munti (right), and Director of Save the Children Jordan Field Office Rebecca Salti (second from right).

## Health infrastructure struggles — minister

GENEVA (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh Friday said Jordan's health infrastructure has started to suffer as a result of the unexpected population rise prompted by the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

Addressing the 46th session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Dr. Bataineh pointed out that this increase has aggravated Jordan's unemployment problem and led to congestion in schools, universities and other educational institutions, besides the negative impact it has had on the country's economy. He added that the Kingdom's economy was hit by the U.N.-imposed embargo against Iraq and the obstacles placed on international trade, particularly in the Aqaba port.

The minister said the progress made in achieving the World Health Organisation's (WHO) goals falls short of the aspirations of the international community.

He stressed that the "Health for All" goal will not be achieved until oppressed nations are liberated and able to exercise their right to self-determination, free from any pressures or international intervention.



Aref Al Bataineh

Dr. Bataineh emphasised that establishing an international ethical order to organise the relations between the world nations through a global social charter is a prerequisite for reaching the "Health for All" target.

He said the aid provided by donor countries to support the health sector is an investment that can yield good results for that country because it helps prevent the outbreak of disease and epidemics, adding that illness and epidemics do not recognise official borders.

"We are not facing any serious problem" as a result of the halt in the oil flow, Mr. Abu Raghbeh said. "We have sufficient reserves of all types of oil and oil products and we don't anticipate any problems."

The minister declined to provide specific figures on Jordan's strategic oil reserves, but said the Kingdom was in a "comfortable" position to face the situation.

The Iraqi oil supply to Jordan is exempt from the sweeping international sanctions imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The exemption has been granted by the U.N. sanctions committee in view of the fact that no money is changing hands since the exports are in repayment in-kind of

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1993

## Temporary halt of Iraqi oil supply not seen as a problem to Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq has suspended oil supplies to Jordan until Monday when it will lift a closure of borders imposed last week, but the suspension is not expected to pose any major problem for Jordan which has enough stocks to ride out the temporary halt.

The Iraqi government ordered the closure of the borders Wednesday to check currency smuggling after invalidating part of its pre-1990 banknotes in a bid to shore up the embattled Iraqi dinar.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abu Raghbeh told the Jordan Times Friday that Iraqi authorities had informed Jordan that the suspension on the overland trucking of oil to the Kingdom was only a temporary measure and that the flow would be resumed Monday, when the border closure would be lifted.

"We tried to ensure that the flow is not disrupted but the Iraqi officials apologised and said they could not continue the supply during the closure period," Mr. Abu Raghbeh said.

The minister said the Iraqis had

promised to send their own tankers carry oil to Jordan once the closure is ended to make up for the shortfall in reserves caused by the suspension in supply.

The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company at Zarqa received the last oil tanker from Iraq late Wednesday, completing the daily supply of 50,000 barrels of crude oil and 25,000 barrels of fuel oil.

The Kingdom's daily consumption is equal to the daily Iraqi supply.

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Iraq's debt to Jordan incurred during the 1980-1988 war.

It was the first time since the 1980-1988 war that the Iraqi oil supply to Jordan was disrupted for more than 50 days. During the war, Iraq oil tankers were held up in the Persian Gulf and the Iraqi oil export was disrupted by the bombing of the oil fields and refineries in the month of January in the Persian Gulf.

The Kingdom has turned to Saudi Arabia and Yemen to make up the oil shortage.

Jordan and Iraq renewed their annual oil agreement in December under which most of the crude oil is free of taxes and sent to Jordan via the border.

Trade has increased a large number of truck loads with Jordan and other states because of the economic problems particular in the Jordanian side of the border, according to the minister.

Some of these trucks carrying relief supplies arrived in Jordan from international aid agencies to help the people stricken after the 1991 earthquake which has improved the local economy and needs of the local population.

A ten truck were given special permission to enter Iraq immediately after the war. These were used to transport some relief goods to the areas of permission, said the minister and local sources.

## Institutionalise democracy urges former premier

AMMAN (Petra) — Former Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat has called for institutionalising Jordan's democratic experience, basing it on meaningful dialogue among all political groups rather than narrow interests and controversial action of various parties.

In a lecture he delivered Thursday at Yarmouk University, Mr. Obaidat said Jordan's four-year-old democratic experiment could have achieved more tangible progress in relations between the legislative and executive powers, had it not been for extraordinary political circumstances witnessed by that period and what he saw as a preoccupation with side issues.

In his lecture, entitled "Democracy and the National Charter," Mr. Obaidat also reviewed the political map of Jordan and highlighted the need to learn from the history of political work in the country.

He called on citizens to shoulder their responsibility in selecting the most capable leaders in the community.

"Our society and nation do not tolerate any division," Mr. Obaidat said. He stressed the influential role of the mass media in relaying facts about Jordan's democratic experience and the need to debate major issues at every stage of Jordan's political developments.

## UNRWA warns of cuts in services to refugees

AMMAN (T.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen warned of a substantial reduction in services to Palestine refugees "if contributions to alleviate the agency's \$28.5 million deficit were not forthcoming."

Speaking at UNRWA's informal meeting of governments held at agency headquarters in Vienna on May 6 and 7, Mr. Turkmen told representatives of 24 governments and the European Community that the closure of the Israeli occupied territories constituted a "new emergency" which placed additional strain on agency finances on top of the 1993 deficit, according to an UNRWA press release issued Friday.

Referring to the resumption of Middle East peace talks in Washington, the commissioner-general spoke of "a revival of hope," but said "in stark contrast to this development, we see in the occupied territory that the economic, social and security situation is worse than ever."

Two donors were reported to have announced special kind contributions: Spain pledged food aid to the value of some 40 million pesetas (\$342,000) and Denmark pledged a contribution in the form of equipment for the Gaza Hospital valued at some 40

## ICRC meeting demands protection for children caught in armed conflict

By Lima Nabil  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) ended a meeting in Amman Thursday evening demanding that protection be given to children who are victims of armed conflicts.

After a three-day meeting to discuss the implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL), a senior ICRC official, Amer Al Zimali, said the meetings achieved their purpose in highlighting the main issues facing the world community as a result of abuse of IHL.

Although the scheduled round table discussion on Thursday was

cancelled because of technical difficulties, he said, the aims of the meeting were achieved in the end.

Delegates from the ICRC and Arab countries took part in the deliberations to discuss ICRC activities and measures that should be taken to ensure various countries' respect for IHL.

The participants also recommended the formation of an international tribunal to try war criminals, said Mr. Zimali at the end of the meetings at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The delegates discussed topics including violence and the plight of civilians in armed conflicts, Mr. Zimali said.

He said the outcome of the deliberations will be submitted to the ICRC in Geneva for study and future action.

The meeting pointed out the difficulties that emerged in the application of IHL and the role of the ICRC to help overcome them, according to Mr. Zimali.

## Muslim women in U.S. urge scientific reading of Koran

By Sawsan Ghosheh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The North American Council for Muslim Women (NACMW) is urging women everywhere to read the Koran using scientific methods, ignoring previous interpretations and explanations especially those relating to women, said Sharifa Al Khatib, president of the NACMW, at a satellite symposium recently entitled "Muslim Women in America."

"We want to develop ideas that are based on the Koran and Hadith," she added.

Islam, Ms. Khatib said, is a liberator of women, not an oppressor. "One has to distinguish between traditions that may be oppressive of women and Islam," she maintained.

"Islam will become the second largest religion in the U.S. in the next century," Ms. Khatib said. Mosques, she added, do not "pay sufficient attention" to social issues and women's concerns, thus the creation of the NACMW.

The NACMW was founded in 1992 to educate the American public about Islam and to put an end to the stereotypes.

The NACMW acts as an information source on Islam, Muslim women and the Arab World.

They organise seminars and workshops, form ties with the American media and professors

of women's studies, and publish books on related topics, Ms. Khatib said.

But she stressed that their efforts do not only target Americans, but "education should also be within the Muslim society."

A large sector of the Muslim community, she explained, finds difficulty, being mostly immigrants, in raising their children on the principles of Islam while living in a non-Muslim country, and dealing with the American society.

The NACMW, according to Ms. Khatib, helps these families and aims at integrating the Muslim community into the larger society.

Despite the different values systems present between the two cultures, she affirmed that it is possible for parents to instill Muslim values in their children by talking to them calmly and trying to convince them, and not by giving orders, which is usually done in the Arab World.

Ms. Khatib said the NACMW also attempts to educate Muslims on the rights of women, adding that Muslim women in the U.S. are better off than Western women.

"Muslim women, in America, are not treated worse than women of other religions... they are respected by their fathers, brothers and husbands," Ms. Khatib, who holds a master's degree in comparative religions.

But, she stressed that the media plays a major role in spreading stereotypes about Muslim women and in exaggerating any incident of female mistreatment in the Muslim community.

"If women cover their heads (in the U.S.) it is taken as a sign of oppression," Ms. Khatib said.

Women who choose to wear the veil find it hard to be accepted in the workplace, she added.

Ms. Khatib said that in some cases women were pressured to leave their jobs and in others they were not hired.

She stated that Muslims in America do not have any "ambition" to establish an Islamic state in the U.S. "Islam did not specify a political system for us... we are working through the present system... we try to be effective and active members in society... through our moral behaviour we can be seen as a positive force for change."

The NACMW, Ms. Khatib emphasised, is an economically and politically independent organisation that cooperates with other organisations in the U.S., such as women's groups and other religious associations, to reach its goals.

The satellite symposium was a World Net programme aired at the American Centre and included participants from Jordan, Jerusalem, Algeria and the United States.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Exhibition of photographs from Jordan by Arslan Ramadan at the Circassian Society, 7th Circle.

\* Close-up photograph exhibition entitled "Intimate Petra" by Paula Williams-Brown and original embossed, hand-painted prints by Rima Farah at the Gallery, Inter-Continental Hotel.

\* Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suha Shoushan at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.

\* Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.

\* Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Yousef Abdelke at Al Balka's Gallery, Al Fuheis city.

\* Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings

and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Hinch and Margaret M. Hinch at the American Centre.

\* Exhibition of paintings by Suha Katibah Nourai at the Spanish Cultural.

\* Exhibition of contemporary Japanese posters at the Royal Cultural Centre.

\* Exhibition of posters at the Goethe Institut.

\* Exhibition of photographs at the British Council.

### LECTURES

\* Lecture entitled "The Map of Jabel Ansud in the Southern Jordan Desert" by Prof. Edoardo Borzatti Von Lowenstein of the University of France at 7 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

\* Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "American Intelligence Activity in the Arab World" by Retired Brigadier-General Mohammad Noor Shihadeh at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoushan Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

### AMMAN:

1. Safeway

2. Al Rainbow Star - 1st Circle

3. George Sahliyah Electric Shop - Jabal Amman - Mutran Street

4. The Flowers Club - Jabal Amman - Astra building

5. Flowers Club - Al Fareed Complex - Al Abdali.

6. Burjan for handicrafts - 2nd Circle

7. Bonita Restaurant - Second Circle

8. Firas Bookshop - 3rd Circle

9. Faraz Beauty Shop - Umm Uthaina - near San Rock Hotel

10. Sweet Supermarket - Umm Uthaina

11. Kishak Jewellery - Umm Uthaina

12. Antoine Beauty Shop - 5th Circle

13. Al Khouri Pharmacy - 6th Circle

14. Rwand Pharmacy - Wadi Saqra

15. Firas Pharmacy - Jabal Al Hussein

16. The Interior Circle Pharmacy - Jabal Al Hussein

17. Al Safeway

18. Malak Pharmacy - Al Wihdat

19. Al Wihdat Pharmacy - the Club Street - Al Wihdat

20. Abu Sharif Pharmacy - Al Ashrafiyah

21. Milano Pharmacy - Gardens Street

22. Basma Pharmacy - Gardeons Street

23. Al Maktabah Bookshop - Gardens Street

24. University Bookshop - Gardeons Street

25

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1975

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### Rights above talks

PALESTINIAN decision to suspend the meetings of the joint Israeli-Palestinian human rights committee needs to be seen in proper perspective in order to understand its real significance. Just as the Israeli government and its negotiating teams have to reckon with their constituents back home and win their support in the pursuit of peace, the Palestinians are likewise accountable to their people and must earn and defend their support for the same purpose, otherwise their legitimacy becomes eroded.

Prior to the resumption of the ninth round of bilateral negotiations, many contacts were made between the Arab parties and Israel through the UN for the purpose of convincing the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, that outstanding violations of Palestinian human rights must be rectified as a matter of high urgency. This was a caveat on which the Palestinian people insisted for the resumption of the talks.

It became clear, by the end of the second week of the ninth round, however, that Israel continued to stand on its feet on implicit promises for dramatic improvements of the human rights situation in the occupied territories. Against this backdrop, the ability of the Palestinian negotiating teams have become suspect in the eyes of their people had they conducted their peace talks on a "business as usual" basis.

We believe that the Israeli government has to deliver on its pledge to address the human rights situation of the Palestinians, especially vis-a-vis the excessive use of force against them, and at the same time move the issue of the 400 Palestinian detainees whose large and powerful constituency has disgruntled by the recent developments. The Palestinian representatives are justified in their desire to drive home the message that they are not about to sell out to the Israelis on either the terms faced by their people, particularly on the issue of improved human rights conditions in the occupied territories. Hence the decision to act firmly and boldly in calling off the deliberations of the Palestinian-Israeli human rights committee.

With the Israeli repressive policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continuing to take a heavy toll on the lives and well-being of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian negotiating teams must be pressed to justify their continued participation in a forum ostensibly established to improve human rights in these territories. There is but one peace talks to go, in order to succeed, and that is to have Israel respect its human rights obligations under both the 4th Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Political Rights.

### ABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

After a week by the Arab countries' delegations to the peace process extend for a third week their stay in Washington reflects the seriousness on exhausting every possible effort at the peace process in order to reach a just settlement, said Al Dustour Arabic daily. Despite the optimism which some delegates have been showing at the outset of the ninth session, nothing so far has been achieved, but there is still hope that the parties can continue the continuation of the talks, the paper added. The writer argued that unless the third week brings with it something to justify the optimism, the whole process could backfire and give way to further frustration that would lead to more tension. Needless to say that harmony and solidarity among the Arab parties are needed to help the Arabs deal with the stages of the talks because Israel has been betting on the Arabs and achieving its own ends through that tactic, the paper. It said that the Arab masses continue to be news of the talks, hoping to get a glimpse of some progress, and the Arab parties are bound to pursue towards achieving that end. The paper said that the U.S. ought to step in this third week in order to give and to show seriousness in playing the role of full partners as promised.

COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily demanded that the government introduce some changes or amendments in the election law which has become obsolete and does not meet the requirements of democracy and does not satisfy the majority of the population. Saleh Qallab said that it is, for example, unreasonable to see that a city like Zarqa, with three-quarters of a million inhabitants, represented in Parliament by a small number of deputies who represent a sparsely populated region with several thousand inhabitants. The writer is not advocating the idea of one man one vote to deal with this problem, but he wants some amendments that would make the election law more acceptable and fair. He said that it is the Muslim Brotherhood party and the Islamic Action that helped them make major gains in the past elections. However, urged the other political parties to make a law that approach the government with constructive ideas to deal with the situation.

The local media last week gave prominence to the ongoing peace process in Washington, the return of the deported Palestinians and a host of domestic issues, mainly focusing on the election law. *Sa'at Al Shaab* daily said that the Arab parties have not yet found any sign of the role of full partner the U.S. administration promised and pledged and therefore nothing was achieved by the end of the second week of talks. Furthermore, it seems that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is under continued pressure from the opposition parties in Israel not to give any concessions, hence no progress has been achieved.

This view was echoed by Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in *Al Ra'i* daily, who said that though the Palestinians expressed delight over Israel's decision to allow 30 Palestinians to return home after years of exile, they feel that Israel has not kept its promises to offer concessions at the peace talks in Washington or to create an atmosphere conducive to achieving progress. The writer said what Israel is offering the Arabs in the current session merely the old plan of autonomous rule for the Palestinians with no promise of any withdrawals from lands occupied since 1967.

One can not understand Palestinian statements that progress has been achieved in the present session, at a time when one can see no real progress on the ground, said Salameh Ekour, a columnist in *Sawt Al Shaab*.

Against the Palestinian officials' statement one can see that Israel is escalating its repressive policies and openly disregarding U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 which provide for creating an atmosphere for real settlement, said the writer. One should remember, he said, that the whole peace process was essentially based on the implementation of these resolutions that cater to the bettering of land for peace.

Tareq Masa'weh, a columnist in *Al Ra'i* daily, said that the Palestinians came under criticism for their agreement to go to the peace talks this time in view of the lack of progress in the previous sessions and because Israel has escalated its repression on the Palestinian population.

But, the writer said, everyone in the Arab World realizes that it is not for Arafat or the other Palestinian leaders to decide, because the whole Arab World was under pressure from the United States to resume the talks with the Israelis.

He said that the Arab countries themselves did nothing to help the Palestinians regain their rights and the whole world community has failed to come to the help of the Palestinians, by ending Israel's repression or repatriating the exiles.

He said the Palestinians took the current decision to give the Israelis one more chance to



Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

should not expect any change from the previous elections which did not satisfy the majority of the Jordanian people.

Under the title of "Change of the election law is inevitable," Mohammad Daoud, a columnist in *Al Dustour*, said that there is a general tendency to have the present law changed in order to see fair elections in November.

The writer said that many developments occurred in the political scene in Jordan justifying this change and also that it is unreasonable to see some people voting for seven candidates in one constituency while other citizens are only allowed to vote for two or three.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in *Sawt Al Shaab*, described a decision by Fateh, the main group in the PLO, to allow Palestinians in the camps to take part in the coming elections as a dangerous move. He said that during the previous election the PLO refrained from supporting any of the candidates and the decision was right and wise. But he said that Fateh, which has a wide popular base, could be affecting the trend of the coming elections in Jordan with detrimental consequences to the Jordanian candidates.

A columnist in *Al Dustour* drew attention to the fact that the community colleges in Jordan now number more than 50, but none of them helps end unemployment and if anything, they tend to aggravate the situation.

He also said that political parties should see that the higher national interest overrides the interests of certain groups.

In the view of Abdullah Al Khatab, a columnist in *Al Dustour*, the present election law is unfair because of the distribution of the constituencies and the number of deputies to be elected in each of them.

Dr. Khatib said that if the coming elections were held under the same law, one

meet them on the way of attaining peace.

Urging the U.S. administration to take some action towards establishing right and justice, a columnist in *Al Ra'i* daily said that as long as Washington realises that Israel has been occupying Arab land since 1967 and recognises U.N. Resolution 242, it is morally bound to do something to bring an end to occupation.

The writer said that the United States should not only play the role of full partner in the ninth session: to help the two sides attain peace, it should also provide material assistance to the Palestinians to make up for their losses during the 25 years of occupation.

Hani Saoudi, a columnist in *Al Ra'i* daily, commented on the return of the Palestinians from Jordan to Palestine by saying that the move delighted all Arabs. Indeed, the eviction of the Palestinians from their homeland and their movement from the west to the east of the River Jordan reflected the Arab Nation's defeat, but the return of these Palestinians, albeit piecemeal, represents a victory for Arab rights, said Saoudi.

In the view of Nicola Naser, a columnist in *Al Ra'i*, the repatriation of 30 Palestinians in the past weeks came as a blessing. But the writer said that the repatriation of the Palestinians upon a purely Israeli decision should be regarded as a failure and not a victory for the Arab negotiators in Washington, and the world community.

The writer said that Israel is picking up only certain elements and certain people among those it had expelled

The 1986 election law is a farce since it allows people to reach Parliament in an unfair manner and deprives many others of this right, he said. He said that in certain constituencies a citizen has the right to vote for six people, but one is allowed to be voted for in other constituencies under terms of the present law, said Fanek. He said there are many loopholes in the current law that should be plugged, or the whole election law replaced.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in *Sawt Al Shaab*, demanded that the government introduce a law on elections that would cater to the higher national interests, disregarding the selfish interests of certain political parties or deputies who see the present law as a means for reaching Parliament again.

He also said that political parties should see that the higher national interest overrides the interests of certain groups.

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### LETTERS

#### Degrees of fairness

To the Editor:

After the Lockerbie tragedy, when a Boeing 747 (Flight No. 103/PA), a Pan Am jet, crashed in Scotland and 280 Americans lost their lives, America is calling not only for the two Libyans allegedly complicit in that disaster to be put on trial in America or Scotland, but also is demanding compensation for the families who lost relatives in that disaster.

It is no secret that the state of Israel has been funded for the past 45 years by America, both at government level and by the Jewish lobby. There also the question of arms supplied to Israel, from the same source, evidence of which I have seen with my own eyes.

In view of the support, financial and with arms, to Israel, it would not be difficult to establish in any court of law that America has been complicit in the killing of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese innocent men, women and children. No one ever mentioned compensation for the victims of Israeli aggression.

Why then, the world is entitled to ask, is a premium put on the lives of the 280 Americans who lost their lives in the Lockerbie disaster?

Are we now being told, by implication, that American lives are more important and of greater value than those of the Palestinian or the Lebanese?

God help us if we are now being told there are varying values of human life. As a humanitarian, I find the suggestion quite repugnant.

Strange, with 24,700 murders in the U.S. last year, it appeared to me that American lives were so cheap!

When the Libyan leader, Muammar Qaddafi, claims that the two Libyans allegedly involved in the Lockerbie tragedy would not get a fair trial in either Britain or America, he is right because they have already been found guilty by the media in both countries.

I hope the United Nations Security Council will support his suggestion that they should be tried in a neutral country, before five judges appointed by the United Nations, and I hope the non-aligned nations will find that an acceptable solution.

Reg Cleaver,  
9 Elm View,  
Ash Hill,  
Aldershot, Hants,  
U.K.

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MAP Sponsored Walk Friday 14 / 5 / 1993

\* Starting point : Amman Baccalaureate School 8.30 a.m.

\* End point : Nazik AL-Hariri Center

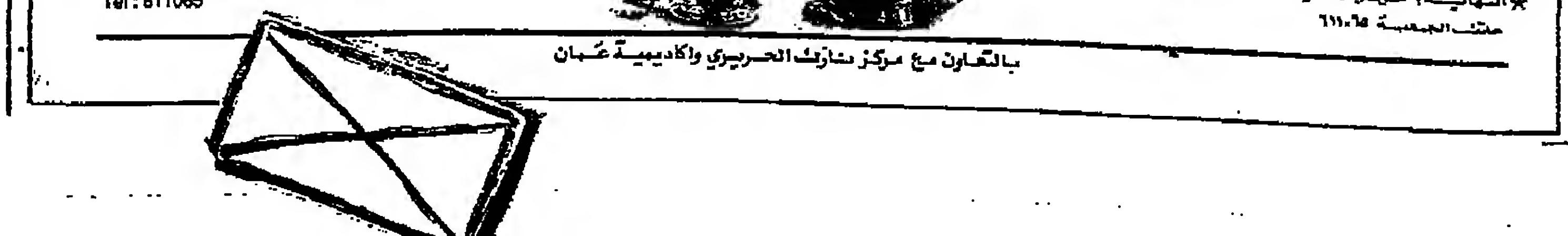
Tel : 611065

Institutions, societies, companies,  
clubs, societies and universities are  
kindly requested to form  
their own teams before May  
10, 1993.

شاركونوا  
بالجولة الخيرية الأردنية للمؤمن الطبي للفلسطينيين

يوم الجمعة 14 / 5 / 1993  
البلدية، الشيشة، والمنتسبون من شرطة البكالوريوس

بالتعاون مع مركز معاذ الخيرى ودار المعرفة - عمان  
الجهة الغربية، شارع معاذ بن جبل، مقابل المدرسة الاعدادية



## Delegation spokespersons report forward movement in ninth round

Following is a summary of the briefings made by the Palestinian and Israeli spokespersons attending the ninth round of peace talks in Washington, on May 5, 1993.

**Special from Washington**

### Palestinian briefing

In her second press briefing of the ninth round of peace talks, Palestinian spokeswoman Dr. Hanan Ashrawi sought to underline the importance and difficulty of the current phase of negotiations. Dr. Ashrawi stressed that there was need for Israel to back its statements by making tangible improvements with regards to the human rights situation in the occupied territories. Now that the two sides are getting into the core of matters, Ashrawi said, they are finding that there are serious gaps that need to be overcome.

Concerning the working group on land, Dr. Ashrawi said that the talks continue to be serious with substantive and business-like discussions. She pointed out, though, that it will be difficult to report to the media on a daily basis now that they are dealing with the core issues and the details pertaining to them. "The issues on the table are central issues and form the core of the substance, so it will be very difficult to assess the basics of disagreement and the various process to untangle the differences" she said.

Dr. Ashrawi stressed that there is a "difference in attitude" in this round and although there may be more progress in discussions on one of the issues and less on another, "the fact that we are discussing those issues is significant," she said. As an example, the Palestinian spokeswoman said that the discussions on territorial integrity were important and dealing with land as a whole is a very important issue. Asked if the Israelis have presented anything new to the Palestinians on the functional as opposed to the conceptual level, Dr. Ashrawi repeated that it is important that there is a discussion of territorial integrity, even if functionally there are differences between the two sides. "If we agreed functionally, there would be no need to negotiate. At least now there is a willingness to discuss issues that were previously taboo," she said.

Dr. Ashrawi called on the Israelis to follow up on the promises they made last week for the

return of more Palestinian expellees. She said that the Israeli attitude is judged by actions on the ground and not just by their statements or by cosmetic changes. Referring to Israel's agreement to return thirty Palestinian expellees, Dr. Ashrawi said that if these initial steps are to have any validity, then Israel needs to "sustain the atmosphere" and take concrete steps to improve the human rights situation in the occupied territories. This would include speeding the return of the Palestinian expellees in Marj el Zouhour, releasing of prisoners and ending the state of siege in the occupied territories and especially in Jerusalem. The human context in which the talks are being held is primary and this remains the major setback to real progress. Dr. Ashrawi explained.

Concerning the working group on land, Dr. Ashrawi said that the talks continue to be serious with substantive and business-like discussions. She pointed out, though, that it will be difficult to report to the media on a daily basis now that they are dealing with the core issues and the details pertaining to them. "The issues on the table are central issues and form the core of the substance, so it will be very difficult to assess the basics of disagreement and the various process to untangle the differences" she said.

Concerning the discussions on water, Dr. Ashrawi said that both sides made their presentations with the Palestinians presenting issues for discussion which the Israelis have so far refused to discuss. The issues that the Palestinians would like to discuss in this working group are: water rights and Israel's denial of these rights, the misappropriation of water, the profigate use of water by Jewish settlers, institutional control and access to information, as well as the fact that the Palestinians have no control over their water. The Israeli presentation focused on resource management and use, as well as the data base. Asked to define what she meant by "water rights," Dr. Ashrawi said that the Palestinian presentation concentrated on the issue of water rights because Israel always refuses to talk about it. "They always talk about water manage-

ment," she said.

The Palestinian spokeswoman said the working group on the ISGA concept continued discussions on the terms of reference, the goals and objectives of the peace process, the linkage between the interim phase and the permanent status, "permanent status being the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," and that anything interim must not be prejudicial to this implementation and to the permanent status. Dr. Ashrawi said that there was also extensive discussion on legislation and on elections. The Israeli presentation focused on "areas of technique of legislation" and the "process of mutual confirmation." Dr. Ashrawi did not wish to explain what is meant by the term "mutual confirmation." The Palestinian presentation continues to deal with the issue of primary as well as secondary legislation which she explained, "must be dealt with as a whole and not fragmented into spheres or subjected to Israeli veto." In terms of elections, the discussions were on holding them under international supervision, as well as on eligibility for running and voting in them.

Asked if the Palestinians would like to have the Americans "sit at the table" with them, Dr. Ashrawi said that the U.S. role has seen some development. They are taking seriously the Palestinian demands and following up on them, she said, but there has been no formal request yet made to the Americans to sit at the negotiating table. For now, Dr. Ashrawi said, the Palestinians would like more evenhanded involvement from the Americans. She concluded her answer by saying that at a certain point there may be a need for American mediation and "the only way they can effectively do that is in the negotiating room."

With regard to the suggestion by Dr. Nabil Shaath that a declaration of principle could possibly be reached next week, Dr. Ashrawi explained that the issue of the declaration of principles was raised and each side presented their views on it. The declaration would serve as a political framework and as such requires agreement on the broad and basic issues since it will be seriously considered as a way to forward.

The Israeli spokesman said

want to say whether or not she thinks a declaration of principles will be made next week.

### Israeli briefing

ISRAELI Spokesman Yossi Gal Thursday termed as "bizarre" the Palestinian decision to suspend meetings in the working group on human rights and announced that an understanding was reached between the Jordanian and Israeli sides establishing three formal working groups to discuss "the whole range of issues" on the agenda. He identified the three working groups by name (one group deals with the issues of water, energy, and environment; the second group will discuss all issues related to security, borders and the elements of peace; and the third group deals with refugees, economic issues and bilateral cooperation). "We welcome this decision. We think that it is a step forward in that track," he said in reference to the meetings of these groups which he said started Wednesday.

Mr. Gal termed negotiations with the Jordanians as "positive in spirit and approach" and said that the two sides agreed upon the working mechanism for proceeding with the negotiations on that track. Asked during the question-and-answer session whether diplomatic and economic relations and the exchange of ambassadors were being discussed with the Jordanian delegation, Mr. Gal pointed to one of the groups that was established on that track — dealing with issues of security, borders and the elements of peace. "These are certainly elements of peace, and we have agreed with the Jordanians that this peace process should culminate in a peace treaty. And the exchange of ambassadors is certainly an ingredient of peace in our opinion," he said.

In his opening statement, Mr. Gal welcomed the Arab decision to extend the talks for another week, saying that the Middle East peace process seems to have entered into a different phase — "different in character, content and hopefully, continuity." Mr. Gal said the Israeli side will continue to press for continuous, uninterrupted negotiations because "experience has shown that when we do not move forward, we move backwards."

In what he termed a "bizarre move" that took the Israelis by surprise, Mr. Gal said the Palestinians announced last night the suspension of the working group on human rights. "This group, it will be remembered, was established at their request in order to deal with the humanitarian issues which they themselves raised and which directly affects (sic) the lives of Palestinians in the territories," he said. "One cannot describe the centrality of human rights issues and then at the same time decide to interrupt our work on these matters which have been termed by them as issues of the

utmost importance... We hope that this decision of theirs will be taken back," he added.

Regarding the Syrian-Israeli track, Mr. Gal said there was "no news" about the questions the Israelis have posed to their Syrian counterparts. "We need to know what kind of peace Syria has in mind before we are in a position to elaborate on the question of withdrawal," he said.

With the Lebanese delegation, Mr. Gal said, the talks continue in a positive spirit and good atmosphere. The proposal submitted to the Lebanese on Tuesday represents a political council for dealing with the outstanding security issues between the two sides.

Mr. Gal was asked about the conflicting statements coming out of Israel with regards to Palestinians, a confederation with Jordan being one school of thought. Mr. Gal said these negotiations are not discussing final status issues. "We are only talking about our self-government here. The idea (behind Madrid) also calls for leaving all the options for the final status open," he insisted.

Asked to elaborate on developments on Israel's proposal for early empowerment, Mr. Gal said the Israelis have not until now heard any response from their Palestinian colleagues.

With respect to the Israeli answer to the review of Hamas expellees expected next Wednesday — a delay which caused the suspension of the meetings on the human rights committee — Mr. Gal said the Palestinian announcement to suspend the meetings has put the "precondition" that they will not resume the talks on that committee before the review is completed.

Mr. Gal was asked if the committee on human rights would not resume its deliberations next week in the event that Israel does not come forward with a degree of step that would bring about the return of some of the Hamas expellees. To that, Gal said the Palestinian decision (to suspend the meetings in that committee) "does not correspond with what is going on in the negotiating room in the two other tracks."

(Presumably, he means commit-

tees). Important work is being done, and even today we continued in the two other delegations, and even... presented a paper for their consideration, and there's an exchange of ideas on that statement of principles."

Mr. Gal was asked whether what he termed as a "new phase of negotiations" means that the two sides are at a point of agreement or that they are simply deliberating in a more businesslike manner without reaching any agreement on the points of friction. In reply, Mr. Gal said no one should expect anything dramatic to take place in these negotiations. "These negotiations are different in that our Palestinian colleagues have finally agreed to enter into formal negotiating groups. And in each and every one of these negotiating groups... we have started touching on issues of substance."

Mr. Rabinovich was asked whether the lack of progress on the Israeli-Syrian track was a result of the reluctance of both parties to commit themselves first to concrete statements about "what kind of peace" and "what kind of withdrawal" the two parties are willing to offer each other. "Rabinovich said that it was true that the two sides are still talking about the same issues but he did not agree that there has not been any deadlock.

He explained that for part of last week the two sides had been going over paragraphs one to four of the Israeli-Syrian text for a second reading — paragraphs which had been written in September and October of last year. That made him realize "how much distance has been covered" since the beginning of the negotiations. For the last two days, he said, the two delegations tried to redraft the preamble of paragraph five which embodies the concept both parties have of the negotiations. In his opinion, the two sides have made "very substantial progress" so far. He added that it was not unusual for negotiations to go through periods of ups and downs.

On the issue of whether the Israelis are willing to be more specific on their idea of withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Mr. Rabinovich said that for Israel to do that, it needs to understand the kind of peace Syria is willing to offer. He added that so far Syrian chief negotiator Muafiq Aliaf was "not able to" tell the Israelis whether "full peace" includes diplomatic relations between the two countries or not.

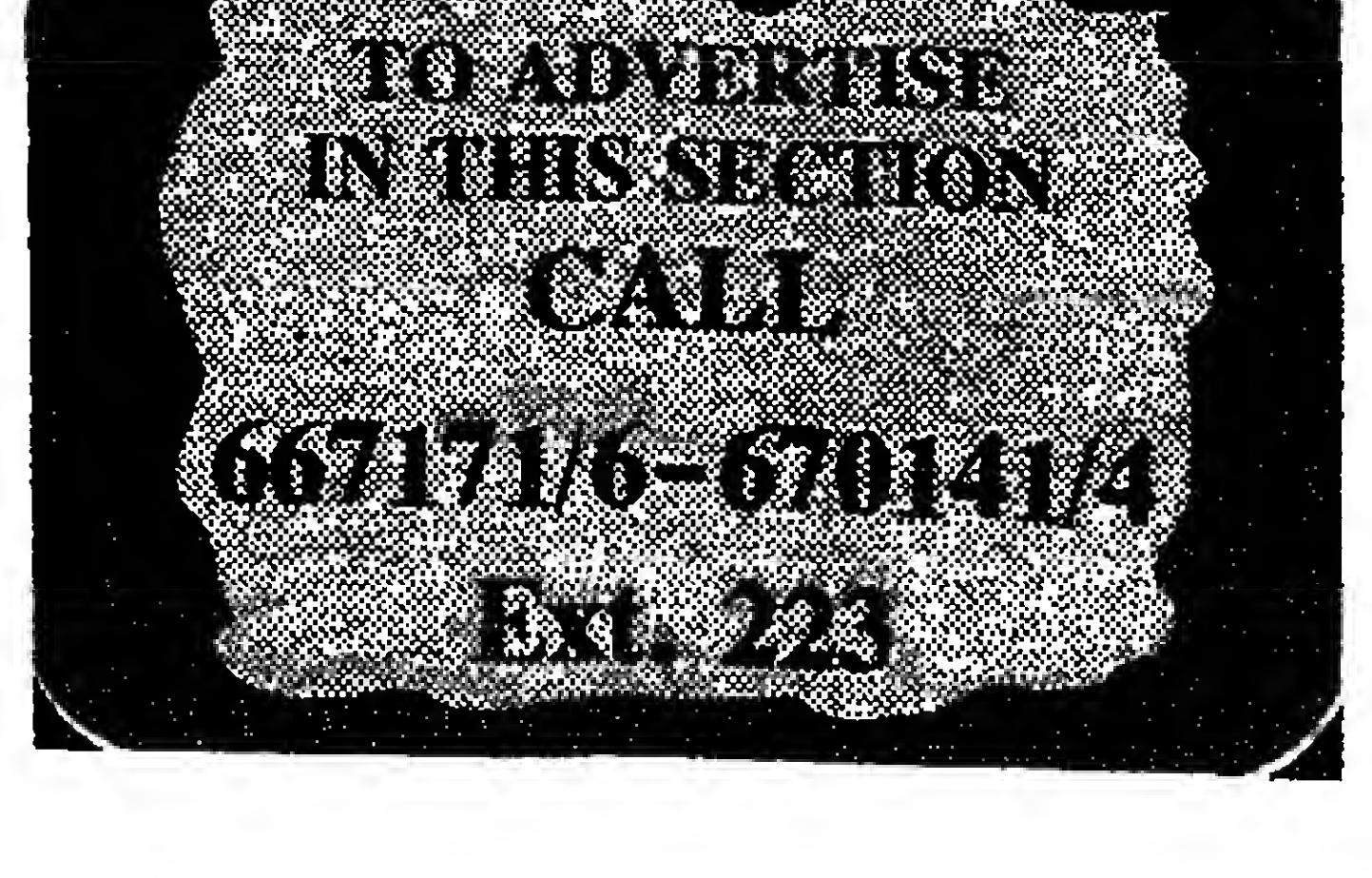
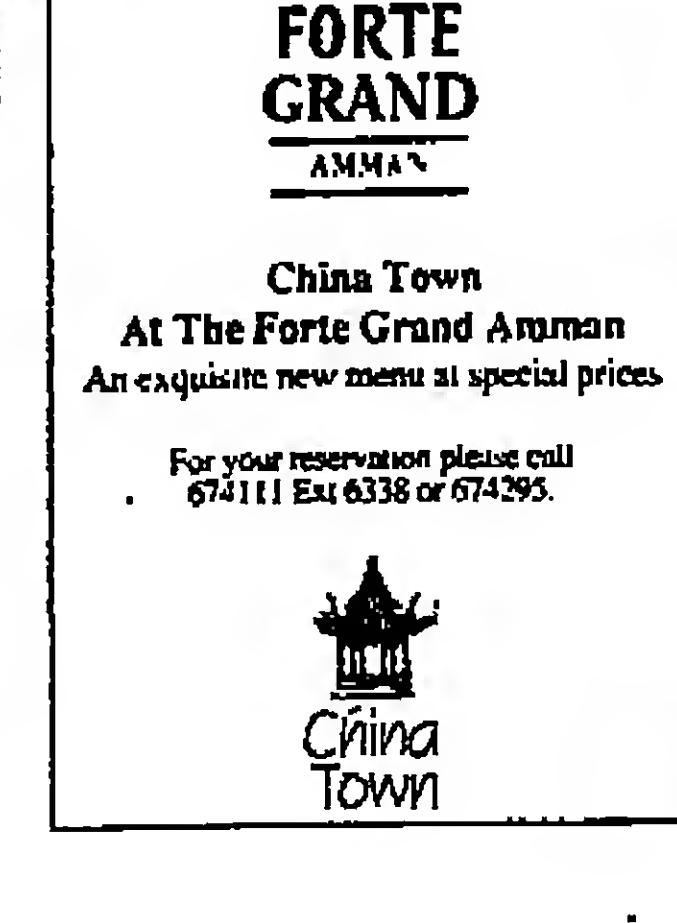
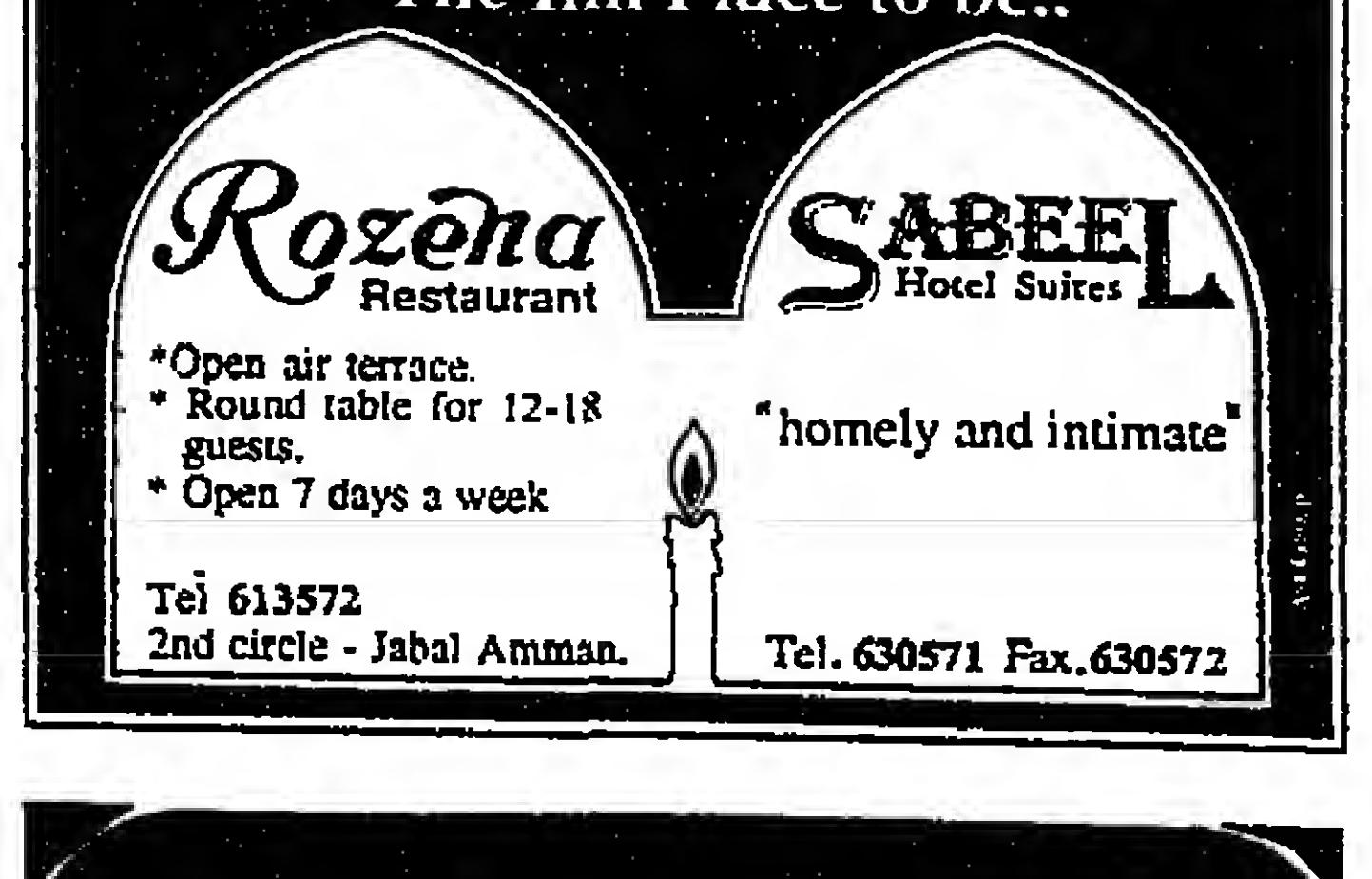
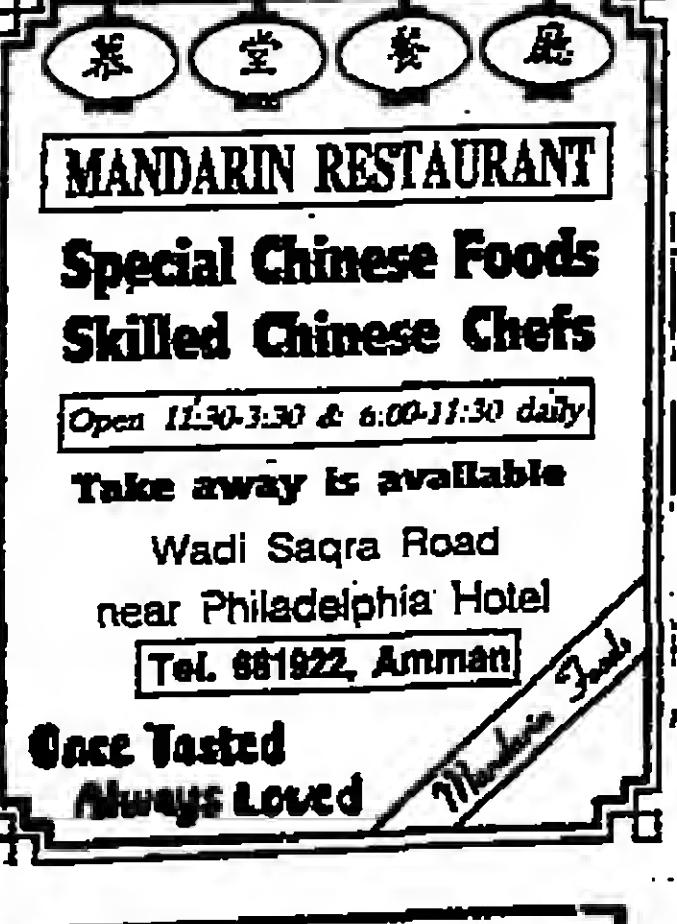
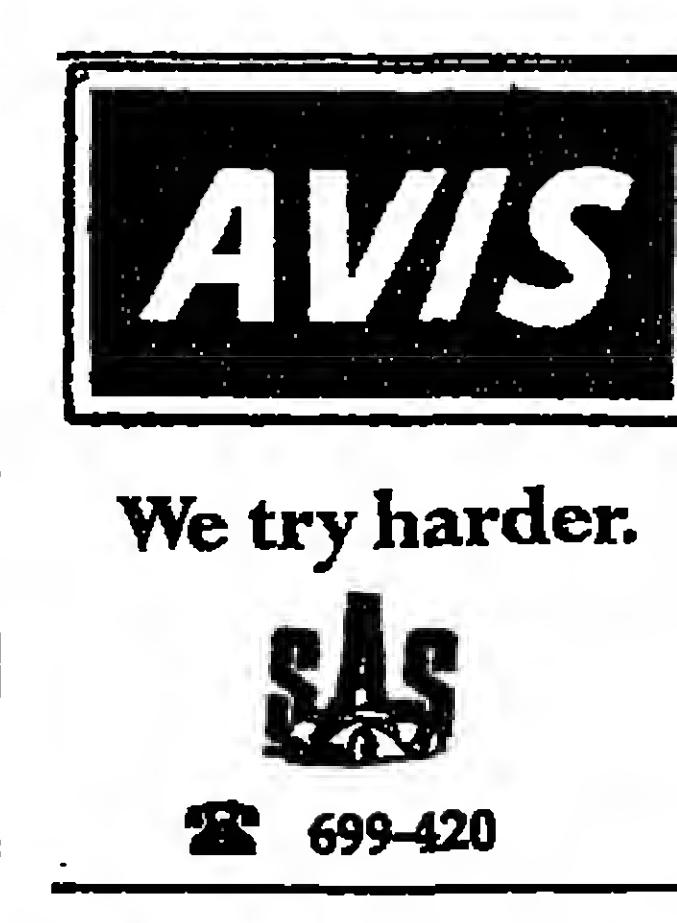
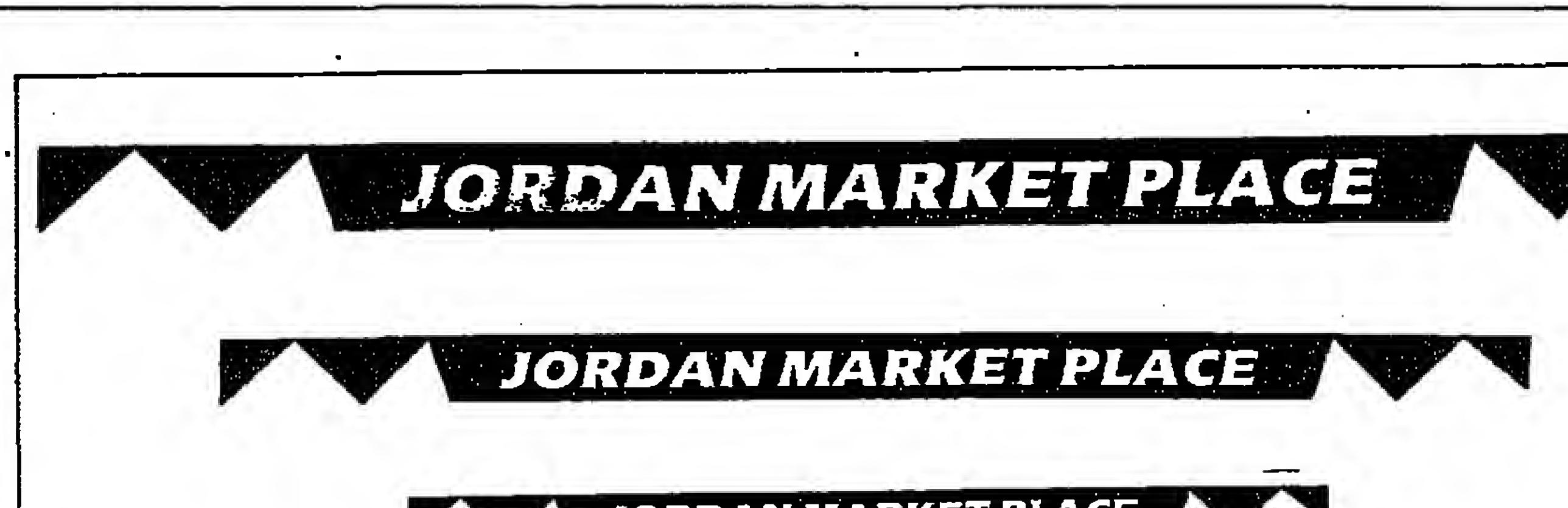
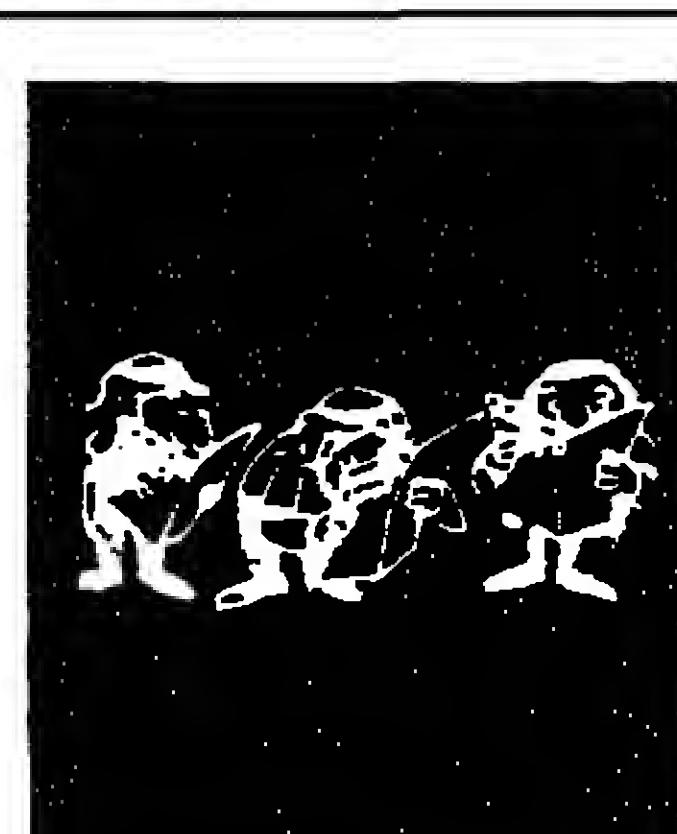
### Israeli negotiators' briefing

On Wednesday, May 5, 1993, the Israeli delegation held a press briefing for the Arab media. In the on-the-record part of the briefing, Israel's chief negotiator with the Syrian delegation, Itamar Rabinovich, took questions without presenting a prepared statement. Uri Lubrani, chief Israeli negotiator on the Israeli-Lebanese track, discussed in an off-the-record session a new Israeli proposal presented to the Lebanese delegation Tuesday.

Asked what purpose the declaration of principles with the Palestinians would serve, Mr. Gal explained that at the beginning of the negotiations, the Israeli presented their Palestinian counterparts with a whole list of options on how to proceed in the negotiations. "A declaration of principle, if we manage to achieve it, will be a document that really outlines the basic agreements that we will hopefully reach on that self-government. So it will be a basis for the continuation of negotiations," he said, although he denied that it would constitute a prerequisite for the continuation of the talks.

The Israeli spokesman refused to go into the details of the declaration of principles. He would only say that the draft proposal submitted to the Palestinians Thursday came after three days of exchanges of views on the declaration during which the two sides touched on "formulations of certain items." The Palestinians are expected to come back after the weekend either with their proposal or with comments on the Israeli proposal "so that we can carry these attempts to reach a joint statement of principles to fruition," he said.

Mr. Gal denied there is a deadlock on the Syrian-Israeli track and said that the two sides are in the midst of a serious attempt at reaching the statement of principles. He noted that Israel's comments on the Syrian formula of "full peace" for withdrawal in-



# Sports

## Sanchez Vicario aims to be No. 1

ROME (AP) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario makes no secret of her goal — the No. 1 ranking in women's tennis.

And after years of hovering near the top, that goal is finally in sight.

"I'd like to be No. 1," the 5-foot-6 (1.69 metres) Spaniard said Thursday, after reaching the quarterfinals of the Italian Open.

But she quickly added: "I'm in no rush and it's not an obsession."

Sanchez Vicario, however, is rushing ahead this season.

With four tournament wins so far, she's the hottest player on the tour, moving up to No. 3 in the world rankings.

Just ahead of her is Steffi Graf, who has lost two finals to Sanchez Vicario this year, including the Citizen Cup in Hamburg, Germany, last Sunday.

It was in that tournament that a man stabbed Monica Seles, the top ranked player in the world. Seles is expected to be out of action at least a month, and may miss the French Open and Wimbledon, two Grand Slams.

Sanchez Vicario will certainly be a favourite in Paris, where she won the only Grand Slam of her career in 1989.

She credits her recent success to being in shape and playing more aggressively. "I'm playing with more confidence now," she said.

In the quarterfinals, she was matched against No. 5 seed Jennifer Capriati.

The other matches pitted No. 2 Martina Navratilova against No. 6 Conchita Martinez; No. 4 Mary Joe Fernandez against No. 8 Anke Huber; and defending champion Gabriela Sabatini,



Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario slams a return during a match at the Rome Open (Peter photo)

seeded No. 3, against the surprise of the tournament — Italy's Francesco Bentivoglio, a 16-year-old qualifier.

No Italian woman has won the clay court classic since Raffaella Reggi in 1985 or reached the quarters since 1989.

Bentivoglio earlier stunned No. 7 seed Jana Novotna. Her latest victim Thursday night was no. 15 Natalia Zvereva.

Before a packed centre court crowd that cheered her every winning point, Bentivoglio outlasted Zvereva 7-5, 5-7, 6-4. Edberg, Becker's 16th unseeded player, Top two seeds Edberg and Boris Becker, were both knocked out of the German Open men's clay-court championship by unseeded opponents in the third round Thursday.

Sweden's Stefan Edberg, the number one seed, at least put up a strong fight before succumbing to Spain's Emilio Sanchez 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 after two hours 22 minutes.

But Becker was soundly beaten 6-3, 6-4 by compatriot Bernd Karpfacher who now meets Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson in the quarter-finals.

"I went into the match to win

— but I didn't realize it would be so easy," said Karpfacher, ranked 76th in the world, after the 94-minute match.

**Maradona suspension lifted**

BEIRUT (AFP) — Nerves about playing in Beirut and an injury to goalkeeper Cha Sims Kwang have thrown South Korea's World Cup campaign off track before their first game.

South Korea, favourites to win the five-team Asia Group D qualifying tournament which started Friday, are "scared" of the guns being used to protect them, according to a team spokesman.

"All four teams due to play against Lebanon are ill-at-ease." The tournament will be first international sporting event held in Beirut since the ending of the 15-year civil war.

The Lebanese authorities have provided squads of heavily armed guards for all the teams. The official cavalcade with sirens blaring that accompanies them to go training makes the locals think that Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri about to pass.

According to a Lebanese security official "it is just a precaution, just to reassure them."

But it has had the opposite effect on the South Koreans, favourites to reach the second round of qualifying from Group D. They reached the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy and are one of the Asian sides capable of getting to America next year.

"It scares us to see all these guns," said the team's spokesman. "No-one wants to leave the hotel."

South Korea, who play their first game Sunday against Bahrain are also worried about the training grounds.

Cha, the first choice goalkeeper, suffered a seriously twisted ankle during an early training session. South Korean coach Kim Ho said he was "doubtful" for Sunday's game.

Team officials from India and Hong Kong have also highlighted the disturbing effect of the omnipresent guns. "At least we are all as nervous as each other," said one Hong Kong player.

FIFA awarded the tournament to Beirut to encourage sport after the ending of the war in October 1990. The Lebanese are heralding their first post-war international event as a major stepping stone in the country's reconstruction.

The group started Friday with matches between Hong Kong and Bahrain, and Lebanon against India.

## Beirut guns leave soccer stars ill-at-ease

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## Suns stun Lakers 101-86

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Phoenix Suns can breathe a sign of relief.

The best team in the National Basketball Association all season avoided embarrassing elimination at the hands of the surprising Los Angeles Lakers for the second consecutive game with an impressive 101-86 victory on the road that knotted their first-round playoff series at two games each.

"This team has a winning heart," said rookie Oliver Miller, who had 16 points for Phoenix. "You have seen the real Phoenix Suns tonight."

Game five is set for Sunday in Phoenix as the Suns try to become the first team in NBA history to win a five-game playoff series after losing the first two games at home.

At Indiana, the New York Knicks finally put away the pesky Pacers, but they needed overtime

to do it.

New York wrapped up a three games to one victory over Indiana with a 109-100 overtime win, while Seattle forced a fifth and deciding game in their first-round Western Conference playoff series by beating the Jazz in Utah 93-80.

The Lakers, the only team that qualified for the playoffs with a losing record, will get one more chance to pull off one of the biggest upsets in NBA playoff history. But they stand little chance if the Suns play as well as they did on Thursday.

Charles Barkley returned to his dominant form for Phoenix and scored 28 points, while Kevin Johnson matched Miller's output with 16 points for the Suns.

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scored 28 points, while Kevin

Johnson matched Miller's output

with 16 points for the Suns.

"We're excited. It took us two

games to warm up," Johnson said.

"Our back was definitely to the wall."

Vlade Divac led the Lakers with 17 points and Tony Smith added 15.

The Suns led 43-39 at the half and steadily extended their lead to 12 points — 71-59 — heading into the final quarter.

At Indiana, Doc Rivers kept the Knicks close late in the fourth

quarter and took control in overtime with three three-pointers to bury the Pacers and clinch the surprisingly tough series.

The Knicks advanced to an Eastern Conference semifinal against the Charlotte Hornets, who eliminated the Boston Celtics Wednesday night.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 28 points and Anthony Mason had 25. But Rivers was the hero. He finished with 21 points — 11 in overtime — and dished out 11 assists for New York.

Indiana's Reggie Miller led all

scorers with 33 points.

At Utah, the Seattle Super-

sonics staved off elimination with their seven-point victory over the Jazz.

Eddie Johnson scored 11 of his

game-high 24 points in the final

3:25 and Seattle held Utah to 36

second-half points to even the

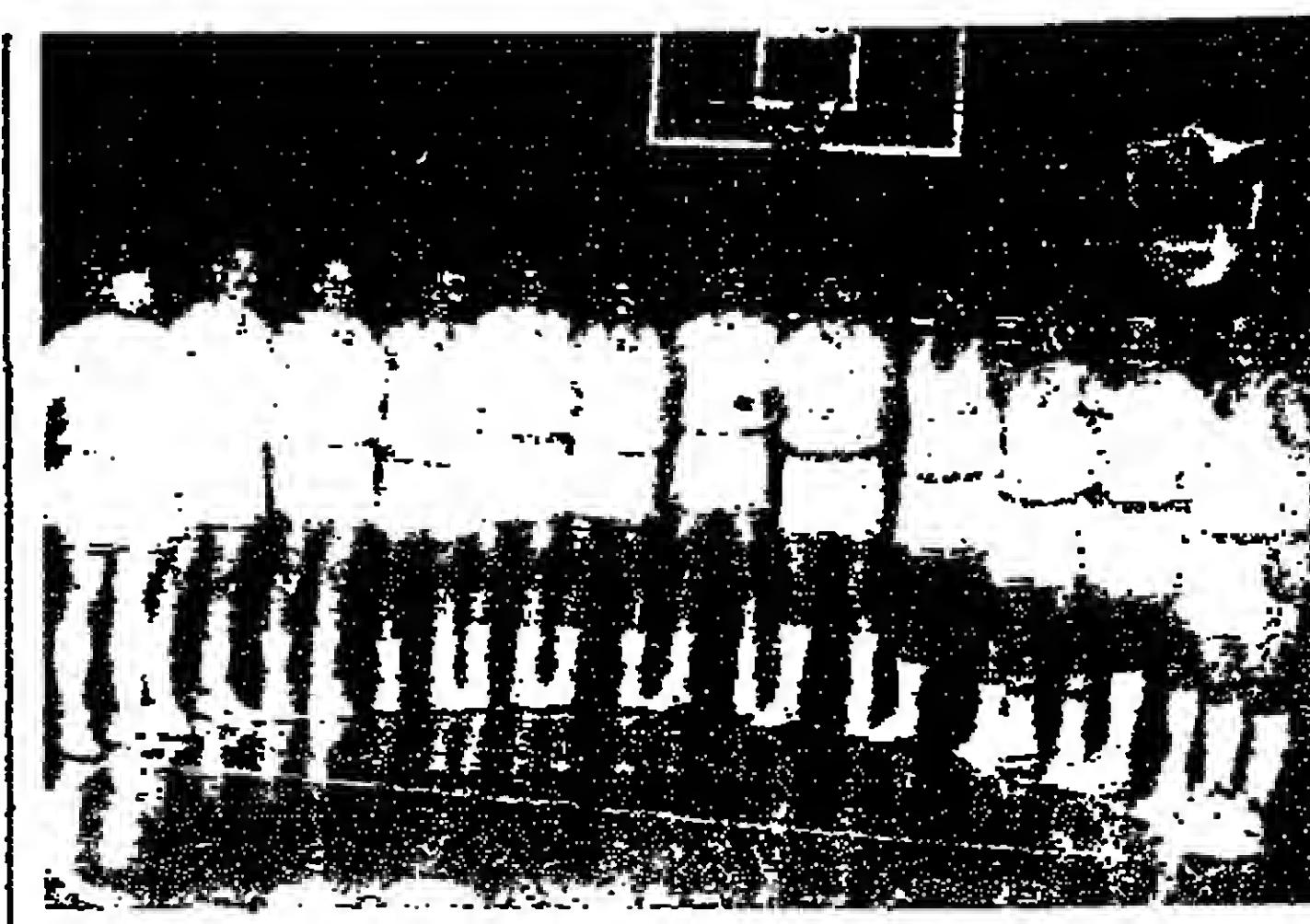
best-of-five series at two games each.

The decider will be played Saturday in Seattle.

The Sonics led 70-64 after three

quarters and held Utah to just 16

points in the fourth quarter.



Jordan's Al Ahli  
Al Maidan Basketball Tournament

## Al Ahli score 135-50 win over Al Quds

By Aileen Bamyan  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Ahli Friday won the opening match of Al Maidan sports weekly's basketball tournament, with a crushing 135-50 victory over Al Quds of Palestine.

Seven Arab teams representing Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine and Jordan are taking part in the week-long tournament held on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers.

Minister of Youth Saleh Israileid deputised for Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at the opening ceremony.

Al Ahli took an early lead in the match and had the clear upper hand at all times. They took an 11-2 and 19-7 lead in the first eight minutes, before playmaker Sami Murqus sank in a three-pointer.

Al Quds' players, on the other hand, seemed at a loss and tried to shoot three-pointers with no effective rebounding almost all the time.

Al Ahli's Kamal Helou and Naser Bushnaq secured both defensive and offensive rebounding as their team had no problem penetrating their opponents' frail defences.

Al Quds' energetic George Wakileh and teammates repeatedly tried to narrow the gap as Al Ahli led 40-19 after a three-pointer by Sami Sa'duddin. Two consecutive slam dunks by Bushnaq and Helou and a three-pointer by Sa'duddin took Al Ahli to a 55-19 lead.

The first half ended 68-21.

Al Ahli outscored Al Quds 13-1 at the beginning of the second half as they led 81-22. Jordan's 1990 first division titleholders then resorted to a full court press defence which further hindered Al Quds' scoring ability.

Al Ahli's coach gave almost all bench players a chance to test their skill, as Zeid Alkhas, Walid Badran and Yousef Zaghloul continued to score, taking their team to an impressive 103-35 lead.

Al Quds players' individual efforts little succeeded in narrowing the wide gap as Al Ahli continued to score down to the last second when a three-pointer by Sa'duddin ended the match 135-50.

On Saturday Jordan's Al Orthodox play Lebanon's Al Riyadi at 4:30 p.m. while the Iraqi Air Force team play Lebanon's Al Hikma.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### China fights the elements for East Asian games

BEIJING (R) — Three Chinese military planes will do battle with any clouds above Shanghai Sunday and make sure no rain falls during the opening ceremony of the East Asian Games, the overseas edition of the People's Daily said Friday. China, gunning for the right to host the 2000 Olympics, wants to show the world it can put on a good show. The newspaper did not say how the planes would do their work, the first such experiment in Chinese history.

### O'Neal easily wins NBA Rookie of the Year

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal, the Orlando's Magic's backboard-smashing center and the most celebrated player to enter the NBA in a generation, easily won the NBA Rookie of the Year award Thursday. The 7-foot-1 center received 96 of a possible 98 votes from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters who regularly cover the NBA — three from each league city and 17 representing the national media. Center Alonzo Mourning of the Charlotte Hornets received the other two votes. O'Neal was the only player in the NBA's top 10 in four statistical categories. He averaged 23.4 points, 13.9 rebounds and 3.5 blocks per game and shot .562 from the field, leading all rookies in each of those categories. He was second in the league in rebounding and shot blocking, fourth in shooting percentage and eighth in scoring. "I was just doing what I was supposed to do," O'Neal said. "At 7-1, 303, you're supposed to go out there, dunk, rebound and battle. I was just doing my job."

**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH OMAR SHARIFF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
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# Economy

## Kuwait seen wary of IMF wage cut call

**KUWAIT (R)** — Kuwait, trying to reduce a budget deficit swollen by Gulf war costs, may start charging more for some public services but will not cut civil service wages, officials are reported as saying.

The small Gulf state, whose affluent living standards and generous welfare system are based on oil exports, has proposed a 10 per cent cut in spending in fiscal year 1993/94 from July 1.

Kuwait is also considering ways of boosting non-oil revenue, but officials have reacted cautiously to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommendation for further belt-tightening in the form of cuts in civil service salaries, one of its biggest expenses.

"We are trying to improve our non-oil revenues, and to do this we are studying the possibility of increasing the nominal fees the government is charging for public services."

Kuwait's overseas assets, once valued at up to \$100 billion, have been sapped by costs related to the 1991 conflict in which the

Rodhan as saying recently. "That plans are adopted by other countries for solving problems similar to Kuwait's does not necessarily mean we should adopt such plans. But that should not stop us from seeing others' experiences."

Wages accounted for 27 per cent of state spending in 1988/89, the last full year for which official figures are available. Oil accounted for 87 per cent of revenue. Tax and services revenue accounted for a total 12 per cent.

Sheikh Rodhan added in answer to a parliamentary question: "We are trying to improve our non-oil revenues, and to do this we are studying the possibility of increasing the nominal fees the government is charging for public services."

"The study and the recommendations referred by the IMF to the government are not binding and cutting salaries of government employees is against the law," newspapers quoted Finance Minister Nasser Abdulla Al

emirate was liberated from Iraqi occupation. Some market estimates put the value at between \$15 billion and \$35 billion.

Hospitals last month started charging non-Gulf foreigners for some services including diagnostic testing and radiology.

But a health ministry official denied a newspaper report that hospitals had begun charging foreigners other than those from Gulf states a first admission fee of 2,747 billion (\$9.06 billion).

The plan has yet to be debated by parliament, where opposition deputies demand belt-tightening in defence and major infrastructure spending but want social programmes maintained.

An IMF report last month recommended Kuwait cut the de-

rency free. There has been no definitive comment from the government on the idea.

Preliminary 1993/94 government plans forecast a deficit of 1.02 billion dinars (\$2.38 billion) on spending of 3.74 billion dinars (\$12.4 billion) and income of 2.747 billion (\$9.06 billion).

The plan has yet to be debated by parliament, where opposition deputies demand belt-tightening in defence and major infrastructure spending but want social programmes maintained.

An IMF report last month recommended Kuwait cut the de-

ficit by imposing charges for all state services apart from education, cutting government staff numbers and civil service salaries and raising domestic retail gasoline prices.

Seventy per cent of civil service staff are Kuwaitis. About 90 per cent of Kuwaitis in employment are in state jobs.

Sheikh Rodhan, asked to provide a projection of state finances until fiscal 1996/97, said in answer to the parliamentary question that spending was expected to increase to 4.62 billion dinars (\$15.24 billion) in that year.

The main contributors to the rise would be state salaries and miscellaneous items including defence costs, he said.

## Austria offers to help Jordanian exporters

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — A two-day seminar on how export procedures work and what should be done when preparing to market overseas, will take place Saturday and Sunday at the conference hall of the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

The seminar, organised by the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber in cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Jordan National Committee, will provide special assistance to Jordan's exporting sector.

The head of the Austrian Export Academy, Dr. Hans Bauer, the export marketing specialist Dr. Guenter Langer and two leading Austrian export managers (Dr. Michael Bielawski — textiles and clothing, Mr. Peter Malek — fruits and vegetables) will explain how export procedures work and evaluate what should be done when preparing to market overseas.

This includes all aspects of sales development and market penetration with particular emphasis on dealing with agents and distributors. This course, which will provide basic information on exporting from Jordan to Austria, will be useful for businessmen who require to understand the complete story in moving goods abroad, in particular to Western Europe.

The seminar takes place at a time when growth in exports is considered of crucial importance for Jordan's economy. Given the relatively small size of the domestic market, foreign trade should become — as in the case of Austria — one of the most important elements of Jordan's economy.

Austria as a traditionally export oriented nation wants to share know-how in this field with Jordan. Austria is ready to serve as test market for Jordanian exporters who target their exports towards the larger and very competitive markets of Western Europe.

On the other hand Austria has been the centre of East-West business for quite a while. Many Austrian trading companies have acquired a profound knowledge of Eastern European markets which could be of use to Jordanian exporters.

## China's oil thirst may fuel Mideast arms sales

**SINGAPORE (R)**

Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria and other countries in the Middle East, analysts said.

"There will be friction with the U.S. but I don't think China has any choice," Mr. Fesharaki said.

He expects China will become a net importer of crude oil

from the Middle East

in 1994, several years earlier than previously expected.

China's gross domestic product

grew by 12.8 per cent in 1992 and

Chinese economists predict 13

per cent growth this year

more than twice as much as official forecasts.

The new chief of the U.S.

Central Intelligence Agency said

recently the agency is worried

that China could supply arms to

countries unable to get weapons

from Western nations with

tougher export controls.

A bid before the U.S. Congress

lays down conditions Peking must

meet if Washington is to retain

preferential tariffs for trade with

China. The conditions include

guidelines for the transfer of mis-

siles and chemical and biological

weapons.

One Western diplomat said

China would be playing with fire

in China to import oil from the

Mideast and supply the

Mideast with nuclear power, sophisticated

technology and arms," Mr.

Fesharaki said.

Such trade "seems plausible",

one Western diplomat said. "Chi-

na is interested in selling weapons

and the Middle East is one of the

biggest markets. I don't know

where else they would get all the

money (to pay for high oil im-

ports)."

An increasing pattern of arms

and equipment sales from

the United States, which has re-

portedly accused China of ex-

porting arms and technology to

the U.S. allies

is likely to be determined by just what China sells

and to whom, analysts said, with

sales of weapons to U.S. allies

approvals Sunday.

The reforms would force banks

to sell all but 25 per cent of shares

in non-banking companies, to sell

some smaller banks they own and

require a non-banking majority

on bank-owned provident fund

boards and investment commit-

tees.

Critics said the changes do not

go far enough but treasury officials

called them a compromise be-

tween reformers' demands and

bankers' opposition to limits.

## Israel says bank bailout cost \$9.1b

**TEL AVIV (R)**

The prior owners ... continue to

run the banks and enjoy the

authority of appointing the direc-

tors," the report said.

Mr. Ben-Porat said the bankers

were involved in the process of

selling shares but wanted to re-

gain control, complicating the

state's efforts to privatise the

banks were sold.

She said the bank share agree-

ment had cost Israel \$9.1 billion

by the end of October 1991.

"Not one bank controlling inter-

est has been sold ... the direct

damage to the state treasury

... can only be calculated after

their (the shares') sale," the re-

port said.

The bank shares, whose value

had been manipulated by private

bank owners before the 1983

crash, were supposed to have

been sold back to the public by

next October.

However, in unveiling propo-

sals banking reforms last week

the government acknowledged

the deadline for selling the shares

of Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi,

Israel Discount Bank and Bank

Mizrahi may be missed.

The proposals, which must pass

parliament, say independently

appointed trustees should man-

age the shares instead of the state

if they are not sold. That would

avoid the formal nationalisation

that would otherwise take effect.

Ms. Ben-Porat put the blame

for delay squarely on the 1983

scheme that created a "completely

unacceptable and unreasonable

situation."

"On one side, the state guaran-

tees the share prices and takes on

the banks' losses from the man-

ipulation ... until the date of the

sale of the shares. On the other,

## Michelin to shed 2,950 jobs

**CLERMONT-FERRAND**, France (AFP) — The Michelin tyre manufacturer plans to shed 2,950 jobs in France by the end of 1994, the company has said.

The company has shed 4,900 jobs under a restructuring plan which was announced in October 1991.

Observers said that the plan was driven by crisis in the car industry which has deepened in recent months.

Michelin, which is the biggest manufacturer of tyres, employs 30,192 people in France.

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## Patten urges better U.S. ties with China

NEW YORK (AP) — Governor Chris Patten of Hong Kong appealed to the United States to safeguard the colony's future by developing closer ties with China and avoiding punitive trade restrictions.

Mr. Patten spent the week in Washington lobbying President Bill Clinton and congressional leaders to renew China's "most-favoured nation" trade status — which carries the lowest tariffs.

"The best guarantee of Hong Kong's future prosperity, stability and freedom is good, constructive and close relations between China and the United States" — its two largest trading partners, Mr. Patten said.

Some in Congress want to attach human rights and other conditions to China's trade status, but Peking has warned against any such stipulations as interference in its internal affairs.

The issue is critical to Hong Kong, whose economic lifeblood is trade with China. Hong Kong has warned that trade restrictions could cost it 70,000 jobs and slash its growth rate — 5 per cent last year after averaging eight per cent over the past 20 years — by half.

With trade restrictions, "the people you hurt most are the people at the cutting edge of China's great experiment with economic liberalism," Mr. Patten said in a speech to the National Committee on United States-China Relations, an educational group in New York.

Mr. Patten, appointed in 1992, is expected to be the last British colonial governor before Hong Kong reverts to Chinese control in 1997.

He declined to say what kind of China policy appeared to be shaping up in Washington. He said it would be different from the policy under Mr. Bush, but would not elaborate.

Mr. Clinton must decide by June 3 whether to renew China's most-favoured trade status. Congress can reject the extension.

President Clinton's administration plans to press Chinese policymakers on U.S. grievances about human rights and arms exports before the deadline.

In the past few months "we have been talking quietly with China, trying to make as much progress as possible before the president sits down with Congress" to discuss the annual renewal of most-favoured-nation status, said Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord Thursday.

Mr. Lord said he will follow up the diplomatic talks at meetings with Chinese leaders during an Asian tour starting next week. He also plans to attend the annual ministerial conference of ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations.

The U.S.-China discussions have centred on major American complaints, including export of weapons of mass destruction, human rights problems and repression of Tibet," Mr. Lord said.

Mr. Lord, a former ambassador to Peking, got a sample of strong feelings in Congress about human rights in China during his first lengthy hearing before the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific Affairs.

The cold war has ended and with it any reason "to play the China card against the Russians with those really bloody dictators in Peking," said Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a Republican.

"I hope you're not going to... say because our businessmen want to make lots of money we must have free-flowing commerce," Mr. Rohrabacher said. That would be taking "blood money from business as usual with a gang of thugs," he added.

Thursday's hearing coincided with reports that China has continued to ship surface-to-surface missiles to Pakistan despite a pledge to stop two years ago.

"We have continuous bits of information and reports, mostly from human sources... that lead us to be concerned that China recently delivered M-11 missiles or parts of missiles to Pakistan," said one U.S. official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

State Department spokesman Joseph Snyder said if the administration found that China has engaged in improper transfers, it will not hesitate to take the action required under U.S. Missile Proliferation Law," that could include trade sanctions.

China Friday rejected as "groundless" the U.S. claims.

The report was "groundless," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"China's position to observe the guidelines and parameters of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) remains unchanged," he added.

## Khmer Rouge threaten big assault in Cambodia

PHUM THIME, Cambodia (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas are poised for a major assault on government-controlled towns in northwestern Cambodia, a senior guerrilla officer said Friday.

Khmer Rouge reinforcements are approaching Sisophon, Battambang and Siem Reap and are poised to attack, he said in an interview, asking not to be named.

"I think the attack on Vietnamese and their puppets will take place in the next few days," he said, referring to the current Phnom Penh government, formed by the Vietnamese who occupied Cambodia from 1979-1989.

The Khmer Rouge also denied Friday its troops attacked U.N. peacekeepers. It said the United Nations had become a hostage to the Phnom Penh administration and had lost control of Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge has opted out of a 1991 peace agreement and refuses to lay down its arms or take part in multi-party elections scheduled for May 23-27.

The guerrillas have also withdrawn to their jungle stronghold and refuse to attend meetings of the Cambodian all-fiction reconciliation body, the Supreme National Council (SNC), because they say it is unsafe.

At a news conference in this Khmer Rouge stronghold near Phnom Penh Wednesday was the work of the Khmer Rouge. At least 13 people were killed and 34 were admitted to hospital after the attack.

The Khmer Rouge also are prime suspects in the early morning attack Friday on a U.N. base in southern Kompong Speu province that caused a Filipino civilian

police officer to die of a heart attack, a United Nations spokesman said.

Four Bulgarian peacekeepers, a Colombian police officer and a Cambodian guard were wounded in the attack.

While denying the attacks Tuesday and Wednesday the Khmer Rouge spokesman admitted to playing a role in a full-scale assault on northwestern Siem Reap town Monday, which he called a people's revolution "against the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppet."

China has reacted with embarrassment to the actions of its former protégés the Khmer Rouge as the radical group fans the flames of violence in Cambodia.

Two weeks before the United Nations is to hold elections in Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge have unleashed a wave of violence against civilians and U.N. forces, including a Chinese contingent.

The confused and delayed reaction to an attack on their forces by the group that China supported with arms, money and diplomatic backing underlines Peking's embarrassment at the situation.

The fog surrounding Peking's relations with the Khmer Rouge shows that they no longer have any direct influence and that they want Prince Norodom Sihanouk to return to power," a diplomat source said.

China's Foreign Ministry expressed doubts Thursday about the U.N. statement that the Khmer Rouge had launched a rocket, shell and mortar attack on



At the headquarters of the royalist party in Sisophon, northern Cambodia, a party worker puts up a poster featuring Prince Norodom Sihanouk ahead of Cambodian elections (AFP photo)

Chinese troops after a day earlier.

Rouge, who have decided to boycott elections due from May 23-27.

The head of the U.N. operations in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, has stressed that there is "no longer any international dimension" to the problems in Cambodia but the issue remains of regional importance.

Meanwhile, Japan is seriously considering pulling its peacekeeping troops out of Cambodia and has already drawn up an evacuation plan, the Kyodo News Agency reported Friday as a minister called for the men to leave.

China has continued to distance itself from the Khmer

## Yeltsin's drive for new constitution suffers setback

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin's drive to establish a presidential republic in Russia with a new constitution suffered a setback Friday when the constitutional commission rejected his draft for the new basic law.

In a resolution, the Commission on Constitutional Reform scrapped Mr. Yeltsin's draft as a whole, charging that "several elements violated basic civil rights and the division of powers," he said. "Countries in Latin America rejected this type of constitution 40 or 50 years ago."

The rejection of the draft by the commission, established in 1990 by Mr. Yeltsin and the parliament, would force the Russian leader to sidestep the established legal framework if he chooses to push through his own draft for the new constitution.

Under the current Soviet-era constitution, the full-scale parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, is the only authority empowered to adopt a new constitution and it has agreed to study drafts approved by the commission.

The Russian leader announced last week that he wanted regional leaders to delegate representatives to a constituent assembly that would be convened in a few weeks time to adopt the new constitution.

Deputy and legal expert Oleg Rymantsev, who has proposed a

## General charges Peru army killings

LIMA (R) — A Peruvian general who has been fugitive in the U.S. embassy charged that murders by the army were carried out with the knowledge of the highest levels of command but the army denied the charges.

General Rodolfo Robles, bringing a controversial case back into the headlines, said nine students and a professor were killed last July by an intelligence unit operating with the approval and knowledge of army chief General Nicolas Hermosa.

"The crime of La Cantuta (university) was committed by a special intelligence unit operating under the orders of Vladimir Montesinos, virtual chief of the National Intelligence Service," he said in a hand-written document.

But the army, in a statement Thursday, said: "General Robles has made grave charges against army commander and other officials without proof to back them up."

It said if he was aware of abuses he had "the moral obligation" to denounce them sooner, adding the document "despite the false charges" would be sent to the military justice tribunal investigating the case.

The charges and counter-charges followed a day of commotion around dawn sparked coup rumours that were later denied by General Alberto Fujimori's office.

Gen. Robles linked his dismissal from a high-level army post last week to his knowledge, obtained by what he called "credible" intelligence sources, of the details of several cases of human rights abuses.

"In 1980, some 100 million people were affected by major disasters. By 1991, this figure had reached 311 million. Over the

## U.K. Conservative Party suffers election battering

LONDON (R) — British voters have hammered the Conservative government in local elections, putting pressure on Prime Minister John Major to shift some ministers and reinvigorate his divided party.

Mr. Major conceded Friday that dramatic losses in the council polls and in a by-election were a verdict on his government's performance as it struggled to end a protracted recession.

"People were determined to give the government a bloody nose, and that in practice is what they did last night," he told reporters. "We are clearly coming out of recession, but the effects of that are not felt. People feel bruised, they feel hurt."

In its first test of popularity since holding on to power at a general election in April 1992, the Conservatives were left controlling only one of the 47 local councils in England and Wales in Thursday's polling rout.

In the by-election in the southern town of Newbury, minority Liberal Democrat David Rendell was elected by a huge margin of

more than 22,000 votes. The Conservatives had held the seat since 1924.

The defeat cut Mr. Major's majority in the 651-seat House of Commons to 19, further reducing his ability to push through contentious legislation like the bill ratifying the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

Some Conservatives called for the immediate resignation of Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Norman Lamont, who was forced to make a humiliating U-turn last September and withdraw sterling from the exchange rate mechanism.

"Obviously the chancellor must go and it was a grave mistake that he wasn't changed last autumn," said Conservative MP John Carlisle. "I fear that despite the better news, which we all welcome, that people are deeply suspicious that the wrong man is at the helm."

"People feel the government is listless, it is drifting from one crisis to another. It doesn't seem to have any purpose," Mr. Carlisle said.

However he said the authorities would be compelled to deploy more security personnel for the protection of leaders although he himself did not fear for his life.

"Why should I fear? Life is so uncertain. That is the certainty."

Mr. Wijetunga's election as Sri Lanka's third executive president was greeted by table thumping on both sides of the house but the euphoria was drowned when a leftist firebrand Vasudeva Nanayakkara demanded the government's resignation.

"The government must resign and stage elections," Mr. Nanayakkara, the lone MP from his New Equal Society Party, said. "I'm not a party to these congratulatory messages of the opposition."

Opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike backed Mr. Wijetunga but asked him to scrap the French-style executive presidency and revert to the Westminster system of parliamentary democracy which the country had till 1978.

China is also North Korea's main oil and food supplier, accounting for about a million tonnes of the total 1.35 million tonnes of oil imported last year and all of North Korea's 680,000 tonnes of food imports, the report said.

The nuclear watchdog later referred the matter to the United Nations Security Council, where measures including possible sanctions against North Korea have been under discussion.

Meanwhile a South Korean government study said Friday economic sanctions against North Korea would have a greater impact than expected despite the reclusive state's low reliance on foreign trade.

The Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security said sanctions would have a "considerable impact" on North Korea due to the "fundamental vulnerabilities of its trade structure."

But the report warned that imposing sanctions might possibly lead to political instability and any sea or air blockade ordered to enforce the sanctions could trigger a military incident.

The U.N. Security Council is expected to pass a resolution soon strongly urging North Korea to retract its March 12 decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in March, shortly before an International Atomic Energy Agency deadline for it to open two military sites to nuclear inspection.

A second resolution calling for economic sanctions may be issued around the June 12 deadline when Pyongyang's withdrawal takes effect, although China has been using its clout as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council to delay and moderate such a move.

North Korea's ruling party organ, the Rodong Shinmun, commenting on reports Pyongyang appeared to be easing its stance, vowed in a report monitored here that it would "never change" its decision to withdraw from NPT.

Lee Dong-Hui, author of the report and a research professor at the government-funded think tank, said in a telephone interview that a cutoff in North Korea's oil and rice imports from China, "could lead to disturbances to the economy in the short term and in the long term to political instability."

Although North Korea's bi-

## Japan is reluctant over new date for Yeltsin visit

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa accepted Friday Russia's explanation of a second postponement of President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo at the last minute, citing political problems at home.

He was to have discussed the long-running territorial dispute over the Kuril Islands.

Under the Yeltsin draft, Russia would have a strong presidency with power to unilaterally appoint the government and other key officials while the current hardline parliament would be replaced by a smaller bicameral legislature.

The Russian leader announced the new date for his visit was rescheduled for the end of May.

"They seem to have their own hope" of suggesting September or October as potential times, Mr. Miyazawa told reporters. "But discussion is needed."

Mr. Miyazawa was speaking after receiving a message from Moscow saying the postponement was due to technical reasons including Mr. Yeltsin's tight schedule.

Officially, the Japanese government is practising damage limitation control.

## Police hunt 6th man in alleged plot to kill Havel

PRAGUE (R) — Police were hunting Friday for a foreigner suspected of plotting to assassinate Czech President Vaclav Havel, apparently in retaliation for his call for military intervention on behalf of the Bosnian civil war.

Interior Minister Jan Rumi said Thursday night five foreigners had been arrested and a sixth was on the run after police were tipped off about a conspiracy to kill Mr. Havel, the 56-year-old former dissident who led Czechoslovakia's "velvet revolution" against communism.

Police in several districts of Prague stopped motorists for identity checks and searched cars for weapons Friday.

Newspapers published what they said was the text of an anonymous letter which prompted police to arrest the five men and seize cars and weapons.

The letter, written in fractured

Chinese, said extremists from Montenegro were preparing to kill the president because of "the recent speech of Havel in the United States and his statement about Yugoslavia."

At a White House news conference last month, Mr. Havel called for more resolute action to end the fighting in former Yugoslavia and appeared to back air strikes on Serb artillery positions.

The letter gave the nicknames of several of the alleged plotters and said they were being sought by Interpol, the international police organisation, on charges ranging from murder to illegal possession of weapons.

The Japanese daily quoted a Chinese U.N. diplomat in New York as saying: "We are not saying we object to this resolution."

The U.N. Security Council is

## New president vows to unify Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan Premier Dingiri Banda Wijetunga has elected president Friday and vowed to unify this ethnically and politically fragmented island republic and stamp out violence and intolerance.

Parliament unanimously elected Mr. Wijetunga, 71, as successor to assassinated President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who has blown up in a suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla suicide attack during a May Day rally here.

"My first priority will be to unify the nation. We will explore the possibilities and the impossibilities. Unifying a nation in pieces is a lengthy process," Mr. Wijetunga told reporters just after becoming president.

Mr. Wijetunga in his acceptance speech to parliament promised a "new social order" and described his philosophy of life in a Buddhist scripture: "I will do what I say and will not say anything I cannot do."

He called for opposition support to "stamp out violence and other negative and evil forces that mar the sanctity of life."